

Power men threaten even more cuts if today's talks fail

As increasingly severe power cuts disrupted industry and commerce yesterday, management and official union representatives in the power industry were reported to be near agreement on claims for improved fringe benefits. Hopes rested on today's meeting of the industry's national joint consultative committee, but one of the leaders of the unofficial work-to-rule and overtime ban said the power workers' action could be intensified if a settlement was not acceptable.

Surgeon operates by torchlight

By Craig Seton
Hopes for an early end to the increasingly severe power cuts affecting all parts of Britain rest today on a meeting of the electricity industry's national joint consultative committee. But, while management and unions were reported to be close to agreement, a leader of the workers who have taken unofficial action said it might increase if the settlement was not acceptable to them.

The cuts have affected offices, industry, domestic consumers and hospitals. In Northampton a surgeon, Mr Maurice McLean, has had to stitch up a patient by torchlight when both the power and an emergency generator failed. The patient, a woman undergoing a serious spinal operation, was not operated on and will now have to wait two more months.

Mr McLean yesterday appealed to the power workers to think over the dangers of their present industrial action, warning them that it might lead to the death of a patient in the operating theatre. In his view, the power cuts had been only a few minutes from "a very dangerous position" that might have killed the patient.

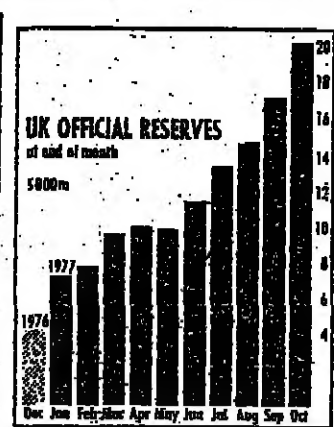
In Surbiton, Surrey, another surgeon, Mr Peter Davies, successfully completed a delicate operation by the light of battery lamps.

In London the police manned main road junctions when traffic lights failed, but queues grew longer as the rush-hour blackouts continued.

The London Fire Brigade said it had been inundated with calls to rescue people trapped in tower-block lifts.

The blackouts are the result of an eight-day dispute over wages and working conditions. The dispute has reduced output from 10 to 15 per cent, and the Electricity Council, which has said that it was certain to get worse without a settlement, added that there was little to be done to cushion important users from the effects.

The council's industrial divisions remain cautiously optimistic about today's meeting. Both sides acknowledge that



UK reserves now third biggest in world

By Caroline Addison
Britain's official reserves, soared by more than \$3,000m (about £1,640m) last month to top \$20,000m for the first time. They stood at \$4,129m at the end of last year.

Britain now has the third largest reserves in the world after West Germany and Saudi Arabia.

The inflow of foreign capital into London during October, as the Bank of England struggled to hold down the value of the pound by buying dollars for the reserves, was the trigger for the decision to allow sterling to float freely this week.

So great was their concern with the power workers that the miners' rejection of the proposed productivity deal was hardly touched on.

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was at yesterday's meeting, has let it be known, however, that the miners' workers will not be treated as a special case.

Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, who said recently that she would consider calling a referendum if faced as Prime Minister with confrontation between Government and the miners, said yesterday: "We cannot be complacent about declining productivity in the pits. That is why we wish the miners' ballot had gone the other way."

However, you look at it, the fact is that any increase in wages unaccompanied by an increase in production will have to be met by increases in the prices of coal and electricity. And who pays the higher prices for those higher wages? Not the Government: the people. We always do."

Gas plant protest: Residents at Middlesbrough, Cumbria, for the closure of a chemical plant last night after the evacuation of homes on Tuesday when a vapour cloud was released by an explosion. The company, Corros Brothers, said yesterday that the cause had been a power cut of which it had no warning.

Councillor Reginald Davies said that if the company had no emergency power supply, it should close the works until the powerworkers' dispute was settled.

Brezhnev offer to suspend peaceful nuclear explosions programme removes obstacle to total test ban

Moscow, Nov 2.—The Soviet Union today offered to suspend its peaceful nuclear explosion programme to ease the conclusion of a total test ban treaty, and proposed a world-wide agreement simultaneously halting nuclear weapon production.

The suggestions came in the official text of a speech delivered in slightly abbreviated form by President Brezhnev to a Kremlin rally marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

The 90-minute address also included an extensive critique of the policies and tactics espoused by the "Eurocommunist" parties of the West.

During speeches by foreign guests later in the day, this theme emerged strongly with pro-Moscow communists—like Dr Alvarez Cunhal of Portugal and Mr Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria—warming to the suggestion for ringing pledges of loyalty to the Soviet Union.

The non-conformist position was fervently defended by Signor Enrico Berlinguer of Italy, who declared that the West for parties' experience showed that democracy was "something of universal, historical value", and in less detail by M Paul Laurent of France.

Western diplomats said Mr Brezhnev's offer to negotiate with other powers a moratorium on the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes could remove one of the main obstacles to an overall treaty banning nuclear testing.

The Soviet leader said Russia wanted the present Geneva negotiations on a treaty—which would replace the 1963 accord barring everything but underground testing—brought to a successful conclusion.

Until now, Moscow has insisted that peaceful explosions were vital for many of its huge development projects across the vast, unpopulated expanses of Russia and Siberia, and has sought their exclusion from any total nuclear ban.

Mr Brezhnev said the Soviet Union was ready to reach agreement on a moratorium on such explosions "along with a ban on all nuclear weapon tests for a determined period."

The western diplomats, who have considerable experience in disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union, said much would depend on the period of the moratorium Moscow might offer and whether it could be extended.

Most western countries feel that allowing continuation of any nuclear explosions would make possible violations of the treaty under negotiation

The child victims of Japanese schooling

From Peter Hazellhurst
Tokyo, Nov 2
After scribbling a farewell note to her parents last month, Naomi Sakuma, a 10-year-old Japanese schoolgirl, jumped from the fourth floor of a Tokyo block of flats. She did not explain why she had taken her life but police found the answer in her bedroom: a pile of unfinished homework.

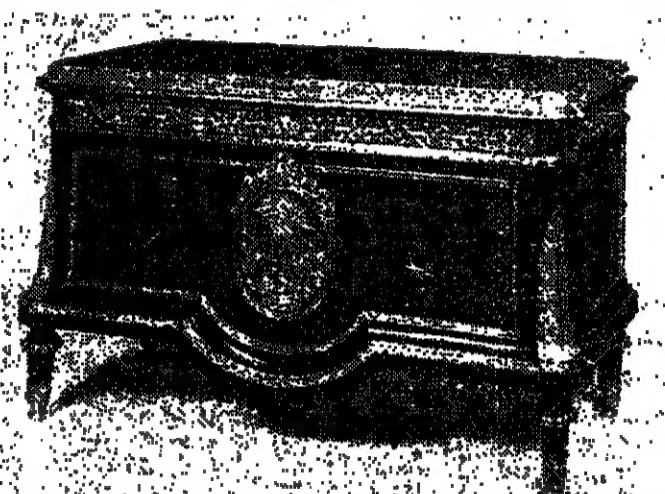
Naomi was a victim of the pressure of Japan's highly competitive and draconian educational system which is expected to push child and teenage suicides to a record level of about 800 this year, according to the projections of a report by the national police.

At the same time sociologists claim that many nine and ten year olds, who, in many cases, are forced to study 14 hours a day, are developing the symptoms of adult diseases, such as ulcers and hypertension.

The police report discloses that more than 400 children and teenagers committed suicide during the past seven months and that the rate of these deaths is increasing.

From the evidence, at least 120 of the suicides during the first half of the year can be traced back to the stress of preparing for entrance examinations.

In most cases, the average student is forced to attend special private cramming schools (known as *juku*) before and after normal school



A Louis XVI commode in the Wildenstein collection acquired by Mr Akram Ojeh.

Saudi pays £8.8m for Wildenstein collection

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent
The Wildenstein family collection of French furniture and works of art, considered by the art world more distinguished than that of Menem, has been acquired by a Saudi Arabian businessman, Mr Akram Ojeh, for 75m francs (£8.8m).

Last week it was announced that he had bought the France, the transatlantic liner, for 80m francs.

Mr Ojeh plans to combine his two purchases, exhibiting them on 202 superb Wildenstein items on board the *Lebanese*, according to the *Lebanese* weekly, *As Sayid*. The liner will be anchored off the coast of Florida and probably run as a hotel.

According to Reuters and Agence France-Presse, Mr Ojeh was born in Syria and became a naturalized Saudi citizen in 1950. His fortune appears to be based on his company, Technique d'Avant Gardes Finance, hitherto noted for high-quality prefabricated building. The company has had several very large contracts in Saudi Arabia and is believed to have connections with the Royal Family.

Mr Ojeh is a friend of Daniel Wildenstein's son, through whom, according to *As Sayid*, the deal was negotiated. It underlines what a small affair the art market remains in terms of international finance.

Sotheby's had announced last month that it was to sell the

Births to immigrants predominate in five London boroughs

By Sue Reid
More than half the children born in five London boroughs during 1976 had immigrant parentage, according to new statistics published yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The latest figures show that Brent, Haringey, Ealing, Westminster and Chelsea and Kensington each recorded a higher number of births to immigrant mothers than indigenous families during the year. In Greater London as a whole a third of the 83,233 children born had immigrant parentage, a marginal increase compared with 1975.

In Bradford, Leeds, Leicester and Manchester the births to immigrant mothers increased, but in Coventry and Birmingham the level remained at the same level as 1975. In Wolverhampton the number declined.

In 1976 there were only 54,000 live births in England and Wales, a fall of 19 per cent compared with four years earlier. During the same period births to mothers born outside the United Kingdom fell from 8,000 in 1972, a fall of 13 per cent.

But there was an increase in the births to mothers from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan, after a steady decline from 46,000 to 40,000 in the previous five years. In 1976 the figure rose sharply, according to the latest survey, to 42,000.

The OPCS said yesterday: "Most of the rise in 1976 can be accounted for by the increase in the number of births to mothers from the Indian sub-continent, which totalled 21,600 in 1976, compared with 19,900 in 1975." There was also an increased birth rate among mothers born in Africa.

The rise in birth rate among that group had been caused by the increasing number of New Commonwealth migrants to Britain of child-bearing age, often following heads of families who had arrived first to find work.

The inflow of East African Asians to Britain in recent years had also accounted for the rising birth rate among mothers born in Africa.

Over 90 per cent of mothers from outside the United Kingdom amounted to a slowly increasing percentage of total live births in England and Wales between 1972 and 1976. Children born to New Commonwealth and Pakistani mothers accounted for nearly 6 per cent of total births in 1972, but that figure had risen to 7 per cent in 1976.

However, the percentage of children with Republic of Ireland parentage declined from 2.6 per cent in 1972 to 1.9 per cent in 1976, a "significant fall", according to the OPCS.

Mr Scargill's formula for peace in the mines

By Paul Rowlledge
Labour Editor
Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' striking leader, said yesterday with the poll of wage moderation in the pits, last night held out the prospect of a peaceful settlement of the National Union of Mineworkers' wage aspirations.

He said in an interview that he thought quite clearly that only a fool wants a confrontation. "I am convinced that, provided we are sit down with the coal board and negotiate, we can get a settlement on this claim that will be acceptable to all sides."

The Government may be justly suspicious of his overtures, because Mr Scargill said there could be no settlement of the Chancellor's wage rise of 10 per cent. "We are in the same ball game," he stated.

But he did not take up a rigid negotiating posture, arguing, "I am quite sure that, provided the coal board and the miners explore and explore an amicable and satisfactory solution can be reached."

Mr Scargill was unwilling to elaborate publicly on the scope for compromise. It seems, however, that the desire to reach the TUC's 12-month rule is not sacrosanct, and the 5135-week claim for face workers is a negotiable target rather than a hard and fast demand.

Some areas for bargaining suggest themselves immediately. The miners still remember that the Heath government proposed payment for time spent at the pit preparing for work but at present unpaid, the notorious "waiting and winding time". This, it is calculated, is worth about £14 and £20 a week, paid at the rate of at least an extra hour a day.

On top of that a bank rate settlement in line with the 14 per cent for skilled Ford workers, and cash "recognition" that output at the face, rather than the crude figure for all employees in the industry, is 5 per cent up on 1976 would bring the rate for face workers up to £110 a week. That is with the distance of the level the National Union of Mineworkers is "seeking to achieve" under its conference claim.

Mr Scargill also had some soothing words about the much-feared "battering ram" effect of miners' wage bargaining, which in the past has opened up an inflationary price race. "I have always argued that all workers have suffered as a result of income policy, and all trade unionists have a right to press their legitimate wage claim."

"It may be that our wage claim is higher than some and less than others, but it is a wage claim commensurate with the job that miners have to do. That is the important thing, and that should be the determinant factor. Our settlement will be higher than most. It doesn't mean that their claims are better than ours."

The effect of Mr Scargill's remarks is to introduce into the instability of present discussion a familiar note of special case, pleading that offers the Government and the TUC a way out of the pay dilemma. If the extra money over and above 10 per cent could be justified as unique to coalmining there would be fewer repercussions across the rest of industry.

That theory accords with the less triumphant NUM view that

Thatcher warning of difficulties ahead

Mrs Thatcher has given a warning against thinking that Labour could safely be left to continue with conservative measures towards prosperity. Britain's feelings after better economic news were like those of the children of Israel when the Red Sea had been crossed—so relieved not to be drowned that they forgot the 40 years in the wilderness still to be faced.

Sport 'class bar'

Publicly owned sports and leisure centres tend to be used mainly by the middle classes, a report states. Working-class people sometimes feel excluded and intimidated by the attitudes of the staff.

Shipworkers' payoffs

Shipbuilding workers leaving the industry will qualify for maximum severance payments of £3,500 under new legislation which is expected to be announced in the Queen's Speech.

Evidence of a lost Pacific continent

Two geologists have found evidence suggesting that a continent may have existed in the middle of the Pacific 225 million years ago. They believe multiple rifts may have caused it to drift apart to form North and South America and Asia.

France sends troops

France has flown troop reinforcements to its garrison in Senegal as a result of events in the Western Sahara, where Polisario guerrillas are holding French hostages. France continues to exert diplomatic pressure on Algeria, which is aiding the guerrillas, to use its influence to free the hostages.

Turner exhibition

An exhibition of Turner's engraved art is to be mounted at Somerset House, which the Tate Gallery said last week was unsuitable as an important Turner museum.

Concorde arrives Queen home

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh flew home in Concorde from the Caribbean to a city, rain-soaked Britain last night at twice the speed of sound. They were flown at 30 mph from Bridgetown, Barbados to Heathrow in three hours 42 minutes. This was 15 hours less than expected.

The Queen opens Parliament Westminster today. Prince Philip had taken a rest on the flight deck when winds took off from Bridgetown, a palace spokesman said. "It was a lovely flight," he said, "and the new Concorde enjoyed the new experience of supersonic flying," he said. "She spent about 10 minutes on the flight deck during the trip."

The Queen braved the rain to thank the crew, sheltering in Concorde's wings.

It was announced yesterday that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will pay a state visit to the German Democratic Republic from May 22 to 26.

Lord Carver's car pelted with tomatoes

Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner in Rhodesia, arrived in Salisbury yesterday. He received a coolly polite welcome from officials but a hostile one from a group of Africans. Supporters of the Zimbabwe United People's Organization, which comprises tribal leaders who were not invited to meet him, pelted his car with rotten tomatoes. Lord Carver held his first round of talks.

Dutch kidnap ends

The Dutch property millionaire, Mr Maurits Caransa, was released from five days' captivity in Amsterdam after his kidnappers had been paid a ransom of about £2m. He accepted payment in new, big-denomination banknotes, the serial numbers of which are known.

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Sir Alf Ramsey, the Birmingham City caretaker manager, has left the board to take up a new post of consultant to the club. He will be responsible for all team and club affairs.

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However you look at it,
we were the
first to bottle scotch.

Dewar's

For those with a taste for the original.

HOME NEWS

More cadets seen as way of raising strength of police

By George Clark

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, has decided to set up a working party of the Police Advisory Board to consider the system of employing police cadets to see how improvements can be made "to obtain sufficient recruits of the right quality to enable force strengths to reach authorised establishments".

That was stated yesterday in a White Paper containing the Government's replies to several criticisms made by the House of Commons Select Committee on Expenditure whose chairman is Mr James Boyden, Labour MP for Bishop Auckland.

Members of the committee had been critical in July of the way in which the Government was generously providing money for "job incentive schemes", yet restraining expenditure on the forces of law and order so that some police authorities were cutting down the intake of police cadets.

Mr Peter Hardy, Labour MP for Rother Valley, a member of the committee, said that several police forces, and certainly in Merseyside, it had been decided not to appoint any new cadets.

Complaints were made to the committee by Mr Peter Hardy, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, that his organization had not been invited to give evidence to the committee. He called for some of the money being spent on job incentive schemes to be reallocated to police cadets.

In its reply, the Government says that economies in the police service have been designed to secure a reduction in total police expenditure "but rather to help accommodate the higher cost of particular items such as police pensions, which mainly reflect an increase in the number of police who have retired; total expenditure on the police service was still planned to rise in real terms".

Local authorities, the Government states, with the advice of their financial and professional advisers, accepted the priority for the recruitment of police officers and reluctantly agreed that the restrictions on civilian staff in the police service and cadets, which had to be imposed last year, would have the least damaging effect.

The Government pointed out that "cadets, unlike other civilian staff, do not make any appreciable contribution to immediate operational efficiency. Although the unit cost of a cadet is £1,607 a year, that figure does not include the cost of training; the overall cost of passing a 16-year-old cadet through to attestation as a police officer at 18 is of the order of £5,000-£7,000".

Promising more detailed information on various kinds of expenditure, the Government enters a caveat about the allocations to housing. "Local authorities will have greater freedom to determine priorities within the new housing investment programme system and the Government proposes to issue block allocations which will cover programmes now separately identified", the White Paper states.

The Government, replying to another comment, says it accepts that mortgage interest relief is relevant to the consideration of housing policy and future expenditure White Papers will include estimates of the cost of such relief in past years and for the year of the publication.

On health spending, the Government states that the select committee will in future be provided with regular figures derived from the Department of Health and Social Security's monitoring of unit costs. Selected Public Expenditure Programmes, Reply by the Government to the House of Commons Select Committee on Expenditure, Session 1976-77 (Stationery Office, 35p) Command 6971.

Work permits in New Zealand

Wellington, Nov. 2.—Temporary visitors wanting to work in New Zealand will have to get work permits before arriving in the country under legislation introduced in Parliament today.

Ferry services still stopped

A strike by seamen on British Rail's Sealink ferry services to the Channel Islands ended yesterday but a dispute with the officers remained unsettled. Sealink said there would be no sailings until further notice.

Britain still in wilderness, Mrs Thatcher says

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

Britain was "no longer in the politics of the pendulum, but of the ratchet", Mrs Thatcher said in London yesterday.

On the eve of the state opening of Parliament she said that to believe that the Labour Government could be left to continue down the road of conservative measures towards prosperity was to forget its socialism and its reliance on left-wingers for its majority. And Mrs Thatcher stated, in her opening remarks at a luncheon given by the Institute for Public Relations: "My job is to stop Britain from going red."

Her performance was also remarkable for what she did not say. She did not take up her colleagues' cry that Mr Healey, Chancellor of the exchequer, had started the rust

for a give-away election: she denied the possibility of confrontation, let alone a referendum, regarding the miners' pay negotiations, and touched on the matter only in passing.

His main theme was to remind everyone of the "facts", demonstrating how deep-seated were Britain's economic problems. She asked: "Are we out of the wood yet?" and, answered, indirectly, by comparing recent reactions to better news to the children of Israel after they had crossed the Red Sea. "The worse so relieved they had not been submerged that they forgot they had got to face 40 years in the wilderness."

Mrs Thatcher contended that it would need more than North Sea oil to overcome Britain's difficulties. "It will take an explosion of energy and will power by the British people as

Malice or accident at Windscale 'could be a danger to the world'

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Whitehaven

Replies to some of the thousands of questions raised by objectors at the Windscale public inquiry were given yesterday by the two main organizations, British Nuclear Fuels and Cumbria County Council, behind the application to build a new plant for reprocessing waste oxide nuclear fuel.

The final submission by Mr Ian Gildewell, QC, for the council, examined the acceptability of the risks and the need for the restrictions on civilian staff in the police service and cadets, which had to be imposed last year, would have the least damaging effect.

The Government pointed out that "cadets, unlike other civilian staff, do not make any appreciable contribution to immediate operational efficiency. Although the unit cost of a cadet is £1,607 a year, that figure does not include the cost of training; the overall cost of passing a 16-year-old cadet through to attestation as a police officer at 18 is of the order of £5,000-£7,000".

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Police rush man to end 10-day siege

By Stewart Tandler

Police officers wearing protective clothing yesterday ended the siege of a north London flat and overpowered the man who had been keeping them at bay for 10 days with a machete.

Four constables wearing flat jackets and using a make-shift shield rushed Mr Stuart Brickell in the bedroom of his flat in Myddelton Passage, Loughton.

Mr Brickell, aged 42, barricaded himself in after three policemen had been hurt helping bailiffs to evict him. He had refused to allow council contractors to carry out repairs.

In the past 10 days up to 30 policemen a day have been waiting for Mr Brickell to come out voluntarily. Until Monday he was watched by a remote-control television camera attached to the door frame.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Helm said the police had decided to act after a doctor monitoring Mr Brickell's condition had said he thought he was deteriorating.

Last night Mr Brickell was under police guard at St Bartholomew's Hospital. He was under observation but the hospital said: "He seems reasonably fit."

He said the county council in November, 1976, decided that, if left to decide on the original application, it would grant permission, its view had not changed.

The support of BNF was not unimportant. He said it was apparent that discharges that would or could come from the plant, and the potential results of an accident, or of the intervention of malicious persons, could affect the whole population of this country, indeed of Europe, and to an extent of much the world.

Nevertheless the council's view remained and suggested that there was no proper reason for refusing permission.

He asked that recommendations made to the Secretary of State by Mr Justice Parker, in the report expected early in the new year, would include proposals to other government departments. They would outline improvements in arrange-

ments for monitoring, control and communication of information, and about the funding of improvements to the infrastructure.

Before the plant was constructed and in operation decisions were needed on the granting of planning permission, a nuclear site licence, and a reprocessing permit.

If the time came for any further inquiry, it should be held jointly by the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Energy, Mr Gildewell was not confident that there was any statutory power for that to be done.

Lord Silsoe, QC, opening a final submission by BNF, expected to take two days, focused attention on the immense energy reserves that would go untapped if reprocessing plans were not adopted.

He said two points were not contested. The recovery and reuse of uranium and plutonium from the spent fuel from the advanced gas-cooled reactors coming into use in this country would, in a single recycle, add 30 to 40 per cent to the power generated from the original fuel.

The use of plutonium in fast-breeder reactors mixed with callings of uranium 238 from enrichment plants would give vastly greater production of power, up to 50 times more efficiently.

In his view, that was a very considerable energy reserve in spent fuel, and the energy conservation possible by reprocessing offered a very striking achievement.

He also said it was not contested by Mr Scargill, who asked for nuclear stations to be closed, that spent fuel would arrive in predictable amounts from advanced gas-cooled reactors. BNF had committed to reprocess 1,150 tonnes of foreign thermal reactor fuel.

The issue was to select the most satisfactory way of coping with that spent fuel. The possibilities included placing it in a retrievable store for an unspecified period; disposing of it as unprocessed spent fuel into geological formations; processing it for disposal with recovery of uranium but not plutonium; or keeping it for another decision.

The last course was that proposed by Friends of the Earth. They had argued eloquently, Lord Silsoe maintained, for a delay of 10 years on a decision about reprocessing. He could not accept such a "wait-and-see" policy.

One reason was that it would take 20 years to develop a satisfactory means of storing reliably unprocessed spent fuel. In addition, if a decision about reprocessing was deferred for 10 years, then it would be followed by a further 10 years in which the necessary engineering developments took place to meet that decision.

The importance of having a secure and reliable process for dealing with spent fuel from gas-cooled reactors had been emphasized by the Central Electricity Generating Board, he said.

He rejected suggestions that existing plant, known as B204 and B205, which reprocesses Magnox fuel from the generation board's first generation nuclear stations, could be used solely to handle oxide fuel from British power stations.

He said BNF did not believe it was practical to expand, refurbish or rebuild B204 in conjunction with B205, and rely on that for the rest of this century to reprocess waste fuel from the total British programme.

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25 Tory MPs urge voting reform

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

All Tory MPs and constituency associations are being canvassed by the 25 MPs belonging to Conservative Action for Electoral Reform to rally support for a party commitment to changing the Westminster electoral system.

An appeal, sent out yesterday, says that winning the next election is not going to be easy. The growth of the new political parties has further complicated the issue and will make it even more difficult to win an overall majority.

Conservatives would have to fight for every vote. "We cannot afford to ignore any policy which will help to unite the majority of the people and prevent a Labour government, dominated by its left wing, from gaining power again."

The MPs launching the appeal have been encouraged by recent statements by Mr Pym, frontbencher spokesman on devolution, that it would be unwise for the party to close its mind to the possibilities that could be opened up by electoral change.

They recall that Mr Whitelaw, shadow Home Secretary and deputy leader of the party, spoke favourably a year ago of using proportional representation for the elections to the proposed Scottish and Welsh assemblies.

Suggesting that electoral reform could be worth a million votes, the appeal says: "If we are going to win the next election we have to get a very substantial slice of the six million votes won by the Liberal Party in 1974."

"These people would be influenced to vote Conservative again if we gave a pledge on proportional representation."

The Ulster Civil Liberties Advice Centre said three men released from Castlereagh within the past year were prepared to appear personally before the Amnesty team and give detailed evidence to back their allegations. All three are Protestants.

In addition the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) and the Association for Legal Justice, two Belfast-based groups representing Roman Catholics, have drawn up a list of more than 20 recent cases in which mental and physical ill treatment is alleged.

The spokesman added the officials would be surprised if much came of Mr Neave's suggestion that additional buildings should be acquired by the forces in Belfast.

Mr Mulvey called for full report on all Service accommodation there, and concede that any specific complaint should be brought to his attention promptly.

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Man found guilty of girl bank clerk's murder

Michael John Hart, aged 38, was found guilty by a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of the shooting of Angela Wooliscroft, aged 26, a bank clerk, at Ham, Richmond upon Thames, last November. The jury returned its verdict by a majority of 11 to one.

Mr Justice Melford Stevenson told him he would be sentenced today for the murder and other offences.

Mr Hart's plea of not guilty to murder but guilty of manslaughter was not accepted by the prosecution.

In evidence he had maintained that he cocked the gun merely to frighten with no intention to hurt or kill, and that the gun went off by accident. He said that, heavily disguised, he approached Miss Wooliscroft's flat and levelled it at the counter. She bent down out of view and he heard the sound of paper rustling.

He became impatient and thrust the gun forward at her. She moved off and he heard a muffled scream. Then he grabbed £2,000 from the counter and left.

The jury convicted Mr Hart, of St Peter's Road, Basingstoke, after a retirement of two hours, 51 minutes.

In his summing-up the judge had recalled the careful preparations Mr Hart made for the robbery.

Competition for the plant from other EEC countries is strong, and the British offer stands a good chance of being accepted because of the siting of the proposed plant in a development area with all the attendant advantages.



The fact we're buying in doesn't mean you're selling out.

There comes a time when the shrewdest move you can make is to look for equity finance.

Indeed, the faster you're planning to build your business, the wiser it is to strengthen its base.

And, at the same time, let someone else share the risk.

After all, a risk shared is a risk halved. Even though, at ICFC, we never want anything like a half share in your business.

We only buy a minority holding. And the decision to sell is always yours. So it stays your business.

Our business is only to invest in businesses. Not to run them.

Right now, we have equity investments of £56 million in over 800 companies. As well as the £155 million we've loaned to 2200.

Put simply, if we can help your business succeed, our gain is your gain.

ICFC

The smaller business's biggest source of long-term money.

HOME NEWS

Travel by rail can be expensive, unreliable and dirty, report says

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Travel by British Rail can be expensive, unreliable, and dirty, with inadequate catering, according to the November issue of *Which?*, published by the Consumers' Association. It concedes that Continental trains are in many respects worse, and efforts are being made to improve matters.

Which? inspectors travelling on trains found that people preferred cars because travel by car was often cheaper for one person, and much cheaper for two or a family. For a 100-mile journey first-class rail cost £6 to £10, second-class £4 to £7, and bargain fare £2 to £3, against £2 to £3 by car for petrol only. £2 to £5 including maintenance costs, and £7 to £13 including replacement. The reduced fare system was "far too complicated and confusing."

Rail fares would rise more slowly if more people used the railways or if BR were run more efficiently. "There is a lot of evidence that it could be," the magazine says, or with higher subsidies, though across-the-board "subsidies" are generally not in the long-term consumer interest.

The magazine says 17 of the 200 trains were late, some by 20 minutes late. Three fifths of them were on time, a fifth were more than five minutes late, and 8 per cent more than 15 minutes late.

For Inter-City trains the figures were worse: 38 per cent more than five and 18 per cent more than 15 minutes late. On Western Region 41 per cent were late. Those figures were markedly worse than those quoted by British Rail.

On Southern Region sub-

urban trains more than a quarter of the seats were very dirty, often full of dust and grease. On Inter-City comparatively few seats were dirty, but on Eastern and Southern one could often barely see through them. Floors were dirty on 38 per cent of second-class smoking compartments and 21 per cent in non-smoking ones.

There were no litter bins and ashtrays, and litter accumulated in buffet cars. A quarter of the lavatories examined were not clean, and a fifth of those in second class very dirty, many without soap, towel or hot water.

Fewer than a third of the Inter-City trains sampled had restaurant cars, and a third had no buffet or gangway service. On nearly a quarter there was a buffet but it was closed for all or part of the journey. Food was limited.

British Rail yesterday welcomed the report for its constructive criticism, but said it was based on a small sample and gave a "less than fair and balanced picture". For example, British Rail traffic was rising, not falling, and most Continental railways received much bigger subsidies.

Reduced fares were bringing in substantial new business, and while that led to some complexity BR was trying to keep the fares structure simple and easy to understand.

Efforts were being made to improve cleanliness and catering: punctuality was not as bad as the report suggested, with four fifths of Inter-City and 55 per cent of other trains arriving within five minutes of scheduled time during September.

On Southern Region sub-



Mr John Darwin: Jollity disguises a career of seriousness and distinction.

Looking for latter-day Guy Fawkes

By John Young

Today, as happens each year on the morning of the state opening of Parliament, a solemn little procession will make its way to the cellars of the Palace of Westminster to search for evidence of any latter-day Guy Fawkes. Its guide through the labyrinthine passages will be Mr John Darwin, who, for the past three years and a half has been the palace's resident engineer and the man who is mainly responsible for the day-to-day supervision of everything from Big Ben to the new broadcasting booths in the debating chambers.

Mr Darwin, aged 53, is almost a dead ringer for the Hon Gaius Threepwood, from monochrome to pepper moustache and with the same smiling, ebullient manner. He lives in a superlative flat overlooking Victoria Tower Gardens, for several years the cheapest of leading manufacturers' brands, and Hillard had become as competitive as Tesco.

For fresh fruit and vegetables the survey found that J. Sainsbury's offered the cheapest prices. The report notes that Sainsbury had become one of the cheapest chains overall.

The report points out that his savings can be made by changing grocery chains. For example, it says, people living in Wales might save 18p in the pound. Changing to own brands from leading manufacturers' brands would save, on average, about 12p in the pound, which could save the average household about £18 a year on its basic grocery bills.

The survey was made at the

But the jollity disguises a career of seriousness and distinction. As a student he worked his passage to America in one of the old Cunard liners, an experience that years later enabled him to assume command of the Westminster boilers during the strike of palace staff in 1975.

As an RAF squadron leader, in the Second World War he was responsible for airfield maintenance during the siege of Malta. Later he was appointed the RAF's chief electrical and mechanical engineer in the Far East, and supervised the construction of the airport on the strategic island of Gan in the Indian Ocean.

On returning to England he worked on designs varying from nuclear submarine bases to guided missile facilities, and from new types of dredger to a wind tunnel for testing the prototype Concorde. He retired as head of the Department of the Environment electrical group to take up his present post in which he supervises nearly 200 staff.

It has been a far from uneventful period. After the strike in 1975 there occurred what he calls the "great disaster" when, in the early hours of August 4 last year, metal fatigue caused severe damage to the frame and mechanism of Big Ben.

The clock was working again the same day, although the striking mechanism had to be stopped for some weeks. In his enthusiasm to assure that the overhaul was completed in time for the Queen's jubilee address to Parliament last May Mr Darwin suffered a coronary while climbing the stairs of the tower, from which he is now happily recovered.

Misfortune struck again on August 17 when a heavy rainstorm caused drainpipes to overflow; it was later discovered that they were blocked by birds' nests. Several portraits in the Royal Gallery were damaged, but have since been successfully restored.

One is to replace the heating and ventilation system, which was condemned as obsolete in 1934 and which means that most rooms in the palace are freezing in winter and sweltering in summer. "I reckon it will take at least six years, and I am just hoping that Joel Barnett (Chief Secretary to the Treasury) will give me some money," he says.

The other is to clean the outside of the palace. "I think it is disgraceful that the 'Mother of Parliaments', which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, is almost the only public building in London which is absolutely filthy."

Historical record of social change in this decade

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

A fascinating insight into changes in social policy over the past seven years is offered in the first revision of the *Dictionary of Social Services* since it was first published in 1971.

Terms that used to be familiar to the minority who understood the national insurance scheme, like "contribution year" and "benefit year" have been removed, reflecting the transition from flat-rate contributions and benefits to a fully earnings-related scheme.

The implementation of parts of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, which has transformed the way children in trouble are treated in England and Wales, has led to the deletion of "approved schools" and the concept of "care, protection and control". Instead, the new edition has terms on secure accommodation, young offenders, and intermediate treatment.

The recent identification of particular social difficulties has led to the inclusion of "battered wives", and "child abuse".

The dictionary was launched by the National Council for Social Services to enable people new to the world of social ser-

vices to understand the terms used by experienced practitioners.

The greater recognition given to the rights of individuals to complain when services go wrong is reflected in the inclusion of new terms on the health service and local authority commissioners (or ombudsmen). In the housing and environmental field, the new version offers explanations of "inner city", the Land Compensation Act, loans for house purchase, and the wide range of housing grants and subsidies now available.

In the employment field, the devolution of the main government department into specific agencies, such as the Manpower Services Commission and the Employment Services Agency, is explained.

New benefits given to disabled people, including the mobility allowance and the contributory invalidity pension, are mentioned, and so is the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

Mrs Joan Clegg, compiler of both editions of the dictionary, points out in an introduction: "With one and a half million registered unemployed there is no room for complacency."

Dictionary of Social Services, by Joan Clegg (Bedford Square Press, £2.95).

Colonel and two others accused of corruption

A lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Signals and two businessmen pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to corruption charges.

They are Lieutenant-Colonel David Arthur Charles Randal, aged 40, of the Garrison Officers' Mess, Aldershot; Geoffrey Elliott Wellburn, aged 40, company executive, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire; and Frank Percival Nurdin, aged 60, a consultant, of Barnes Road, Arkley, Hertfordshire.

The charges allege that Mr Wellburn and Mr Nurdin, on May 27, 1971, corruptly gave Colonel Randal £120 as an inducement or reward for showing favour or not showing dis-favour to Royal British Communications Corporation Ltd, in relation to the affairs of the Crown. Colonel Randal is alleged on the same day to have corruptly accepted £120 as an inducement or reward.

All three deny similar charges in relation to £7,000 on February 25, 1972; £5,000 on June 29, 1972; and £2,300 on October 26, 1972.

Motorway link opens

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, opened the final stretch of Stoke on Trent's motorway link road yesterday.

Complete list of the Government as the Commons resumes

THE CABINET

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury	Mr James Callaghan (65)
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons	Mr Michael Foot (64)
Lord Chancellor	Lord Elwyn-Jones (68)
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr Denis Healey (60)
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Dr David Owen (39)
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Mr Merlyn Rees (56)
Secretary of State for Education and Science and Paymaster General	Mrs Shirley Williams (47)
Secretary of State for Energy	Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn (52)
Secretary of State for Industry	Mr Eric Varley (45)
Secretary of State for the Environment	Mr Peter Shore (53)
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Mr Roy Mason (53)
Secretary of State for Scotland	Mr Bruce Millan (50)
Secretary of State for Wales	Mr John Morris, QC (45)
Secretary of State for Defence	Mr Frederick Mulley (59)
Secretary of State for Employment	Mr Albert Booth (49)
Secretary of State for Social Services	Mr David Ennals (55)
Secretary of State for Trade	Mr Edmund Dell (56)
Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords	Lord Peart (63)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Mr Joel Barnett (54)
Secretary of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Mr John Silkin (54)
Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection	Mr Roy Hattersley (44)
Secretary of State for Transport	Mr William Rodgers (49)
Minister for Social Security	Mr Stanley Orme (54)
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Mr Harold Lever (63)

DEPARTMENTAL MINISTERS

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Mr John Silkin
Minister of State	Mr Edward Bishop (57)
Parliamentary Secretary	Mr Gavie Strang (34)

Civil Service Department	Mr James Callaghan
Minister	Lord Peart
Minister of State	Mr Charles Morris (50)

Defence	Mr Frederick Mulley
Minister of State	Mr John Gilbert (50)
Under-Secretary of State for Defence	Mr Patrick Duffy (57)

Secretary of State for the Army	Mr Robert Brown (56)
Under-Secretary of State for the Army	Mr James Wellbeloved (51)
Under-Secretary of State for the RAF	Mr Harold Lever

Duchy of Lancaster	Mr Harold Lever
Chancellor	Mr Harold Lever

Education and Science	Mrs Shirley Williams
Minister of State	Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (70)
Ministers of State	Mr Gordon Oakes (46)
	Mrs Margaret Jackson (34)

Under-Secretary of State	Mr Albert Booth
Minister of State	Mr Harold Walker (50)
Under-Secretaries of State	Mr John Golding (46)
	Mr John Grant (45)

Energy	Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Minister of State	Dr J. Dickinson Maben (52)
Under-Secretaries of State	Mr Alexander Eadie (57)
	Mr John Cunningham (38)

Environment	Mr Peter Shore
Minister of State	Mr Reginald Freeson (51)
Minister of State (Sport and Water Resources)	Mr Denis Howell (54)
Under-Secretaries of State	Mr Ernest Armstrong (62)
	Lady Birk
	Mr Kenneth Marks (57)
	Mr Guy Barnett (49)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Dr David Owen
Minister of State	Mr Frank Judd (42)
Ministers of State	Lord Gorman-Roberts (64)
	Mr Edward Rowlands (37)
	Mr John Tomlinson (38)
	Mr Ryan Luard (51)

Health and Social Security	Mr David Ennals
Minister of State	Mr Stanley Orme
Minister of State	Mr Roland Moyle (49)
Under-Secretary of State (Disabled)	Mr Alfred Morris (45)

Home Office	Mr Merlyn Rees
Minister of State	Lord Harris of Greenwich (47)
Ministers of State	Mr Brynmor John (43)
	Dr Shirley Summerskill (46)

House of Commons	Lord President of the Council and Leader
House of Lords	Lord Privy Seal and Leader
Industry	Minister of State
Ministers of State	Mr Eric Varley
	Mr Alan Williams (47)
	Mr Gerald Kaufman (47)
	Mr Leslie Huchfield (33)
	Mr Robert Coyer (42)

Law Officers' Department	Mr Samuel Silkin, QC (59)
Attorney General	Mr Ronald King
Lord Advocate	Murray, QC (53)
Solicitor General	Mr Peter Archer, QC (50)
Solicitor General for Scotland	Lord McCluskey, QC (48)
Parliamentary Secretary	Mr Arthur Davidson (48)

Lord Chancellor's Office	Lord Chancellor
Northern Ireland Office	Minister of State
Ministers of State	Mr Roy Mason
	Mr John Concannon (47)
	Lord Melchett (29)
	Mr James Dunn (51)
	Mr Raymond Carter (42)

Overseas Development	Minister of State
Parliamentary Secretary	Mrs Judith Hart (33)
	Mr John Tomlinson
Prices and Consumer Protection	Minister of State
Minister of State	Mr Roy Hattersley
Under-Secretary of State	Mr John Fraser (42)
	Mr Robert MacLennan (41)

Privy Council Office	Lord President of the Council
Minister of State	Mr Michael Foot
Parliamentary Secretary	Mr John Smith (39)
	Mr William Price (43)

Scottish Office	Minister of State
Ministers of State	Mr Bruce Millan
	Mr Gregor Mackenzie (49)
	Lord Kirkhill (47)
	Mr Hugh Brown (58)
	Mr Barry Ewing (46)
	Mr Frank McElhone (49)

Trade	Minister of State
Under-Secretaries of State	Mr Edmund Dell
	Mr Clinton Davis (46)
	Mr Michael Meacher (37)

Transport	Minister of State
Under-Secretary of State	Mr William Rodgers
	Mr John Horam (38)

Treasury	First Lord
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr James Callaghan
Chief Secretary	Mr Denis Healey
Parliamentary Secretary (Chief Whip)	Mr Joel Barnett
Financial Secretary	Mr Michael Cocks (48)
Minister of State	Mr Robert Sheldon (54)
	Mr Denzil Davies (39)
	Mr Donald Coleman
	Mr Thomas Cox (47)
	Mr John Derrand (58)
	Mr Edward Graham (52)
	Mr David Stoddart (52)

Assistant Government Whips (Commons)	Mr Joseph Ashton (44)
	Mr Alfred Bates (33)
	Mr Peter Smape (35)
	Mr Albert Stallard (55)
	Mrs Ann Taylor (30)
	Mr James Tinn (55)
	Mr Frank White (37)

Welsh Office	Minister of State
Under-Secretaries of State	Mr John Morris, QC
	Mr Alec Jones (53)
	Mr Barry Jones (39)

Her Majesty's Household	Treasurer (Deputy Chief Whip)
Whip	Mr Walter Harrison
Controller	(56)
Vice-Chamberlain of the Household	Mr Joseph Harper (63)
Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms (Chief Whip, House of Lords)	Mr James Hamilton (59)
Captain of the Women of the Guard (Deputy Chief Whip)	Lady Llewelyn-Davies of Heston (62)
Lords in Waiting	Lord Strabolgi (63)
	Lord Wells-Pestell (67)
	Lord Winterbottom (64)
	Lord Oram (64)
	Lord Wallace of Cosham (71)
	Lady Stedman (61)
	Mr Terence Walker (42)

Banned corned beef on sale	Cans of Australian corned beef, condemned as unfit for human consumption three years ago, are again on sale. The Department of Health said yesterday.
	The 6lb cans, which carry the code EX 80 and may have one of several labels or none at all, have been found in London, Scotland and the Midlands.

Christmas parcels	Christmas parcels going by sea to the United States, Canada, South Africa and the West Indies and letters, packets and parcels for BPO 12 should be posted by November 10.
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Tower-block scheme	The London borough of Haringey is launching an experimental scheme to turn two tower blocks of flats into specialist accommodation for the elderly.
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It takes ten years to finish a really good port.	Croft Distinction. Tawny Port aged ten years in the wood.
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East Europe vessels buy British-caught mackerel

Fishing vessels from East European countries, most of which have been banned from operating inside a 200-mile zone around Britain, are buying hundreds of tons of mackerel every day from British trawlers fishing off the south-west coast.

They follow big British trawlers, wait for the catch to be hauled on board, then bid for it.

The catch is transferred at sea and taken back to Russia, Poland, East Germany or Bulgaria, or transferred to factory ships to be processed for fishmeal or canned. Trawlers from Scotland, Humberside and Northern Ireland are benefiting, so are Cornish fishermen.

Mrs Daphne Lawrie, secretary

of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organization, said: "As we are forced to put up with the Scottish and northern boats anyway, it is better for them to do their transactions at sea instead of cluttering up our overcrowded quays and harbours."

Most of them have their own agents so the local industry does not benefit much even if these trawlers do land their catch at our ports.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said: "There is nothing we can do to stop it and it does our balance of trade some good. It is giving the fishermen a market for their fish which they might otherwise not have."

The survey was made at the

Britain before Man

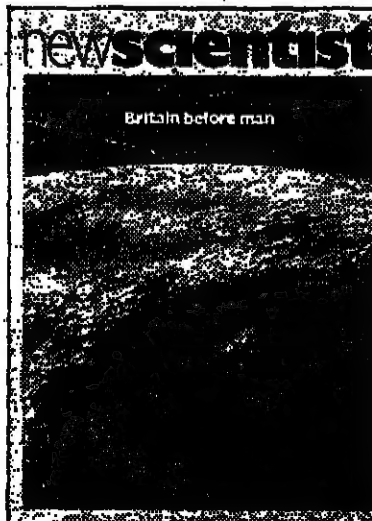


A tale of clashing and separating continents, of tropical heat and ice-age cold, of volcanoes, deserts and vast swamps, of huge mud basins and coral seas, placid sedimentation and violent mountain building.

The Geological Museum, South Kensington, has just opened an eye-catching new kind of exhibition designed to tell a wide public the impressive story of Britain's overall evolution.

This week *New Scientist* carries a resume of the exhibition's aims by the Museum's curator, Fred Dunning, and a special four-page colour insert of the best views from this exhibition, including some ingenious 'satellite' pictures which show how the changing geography of Britain would have looked from space.

newscientist Out now 35p



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HOME NEWS

Academy may close the door to undesirable visitors

By Peter Strafford

An attempt is to be made at the British Academy next week to prevent future visits by such figures as Mr Václav Král, head of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Institute in Prague.

Mr Král, a historian, is in London on an exchange arranged by the academy and is doing research at the Public Record Office. His visit has attracted criticism because of his role as a persecutor of other Czech historians, who have lost their jobs for not following a sufficiently pro-Soviet line.

Mr Michael Evans, the secretary of the British Academy, said yesterday that he had written a paper arguing that the wording of the exchange agreement under which Mr Král had come to London should be changed, so that in future the academy could refuse to accept visitors to whom it objected. The paper would be discussed at a meeting of the academy's council next Thursday.

At present, Mr Evans said, the academy was required to accept any visitor proposed by the Academy of Sciences in Prague, with which the agreement had been signed. One Czech visitor came to Britain each year, and one British visitor went to Czechoslovakia.

Mr Evans said he shared objections that have been made to Mr Král. He regarded him as a falsifier of history in the books he had written and said Mr Král had been responsible for the persecution of many Czech historians who had not followed a pro-Soviet line.

Mr Evans thought that the academy's council of 25 members headed by Sir Isaiah Berlin, the president, would share his views on the need to change the wording of the agreement. If the Czech Academy did not agree, it might be better to do without the agreement, which was made in 1972.

Drive for adult literacy is given top priority

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

The first act of the new Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education has been to set up a subcommittee to work out a policy for the future of Britain's estimated two million illiterates.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr Oakes, Minister of State, attended the first meeting in London of the 22 members of the advisory council, chaired by Professor Richard Hoggart, Warden of Goldsmiths' College, London.

They made clear that they looked to the council as an independent body, with wide terms of reference, to strengthen the lobby for adult education and give it an influential new voice at a time when economic stringency is leading several local authorities to cut provision for adult education.

Mrs Williams's first request to the council was for advice on the best way of building on the adult literacy campaign of the past three years in order to create and implement a coherent strategy for the basic education of adults, including continuing provision for adult literacy.

The Adult Literacy Resource Agency, which was established by the National Institute for

Adult Education in 1975 and has been responsible since then for the adult literacy campaign, is due to be wound up in April. The advisory council has asked Professor H. Jones, head of the department of adult education and chairman of the National Institute for Adult Education, to chair its subcommittee on adult literacy.

A second subcommittee has been set up under the chairmanship of Mrs Naomi McIntosh, pro-vice-chancellor for student affairs at the Open University, "to undertake preliminary consideration of the other main tasks to which the council might best address itself in 1978".

Mrs Williams suggested that among issues the council would doubtless want to consider would be the forging of stronger links between formal higher education and the more informal provision for adult education; concern for securing the proper opportunities for adults with basic educational needs; and the educational implications of changing technology, of developing industrial democracy, and of earlier retirement.

The council's administrative costs, all met by the Government, are expected to be between £45,000 and £55,000 in the first year.

Clubs 'failing to meet old people's needs'

From Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent, Harrogate

Large numbers of very old people are living in extreme loneliness with no family to turn to, Dr Mark Abrams, former head of surveys of the Social Science Research Council, told the triennial conference of Age Concern at Harrogate yesterday.

He said that unless changes were made now in public attitudes to old people the next generation of the elderly would live similarly isolated existences.

Dr Abrams said elderly people did not go to clubs designed for them because the clubs did not meet their needs. Friendly neighbours were much more important than organized activities.

He based his forecast on a sample of 1,600 people aged 75 and over, which is to be published by Age Concern. It showed that more than a third of the age group have no children to turn to for support, either because they have never had any or because they have outlived them.

More than half felt extremely lonely, with nearly a fifth stating that they had never dreamt that they could feel so lonely. Only one in 10 belonged to clubs for the elderly, and 15 per cent wanted help with taking a bath, a service that was not offered.

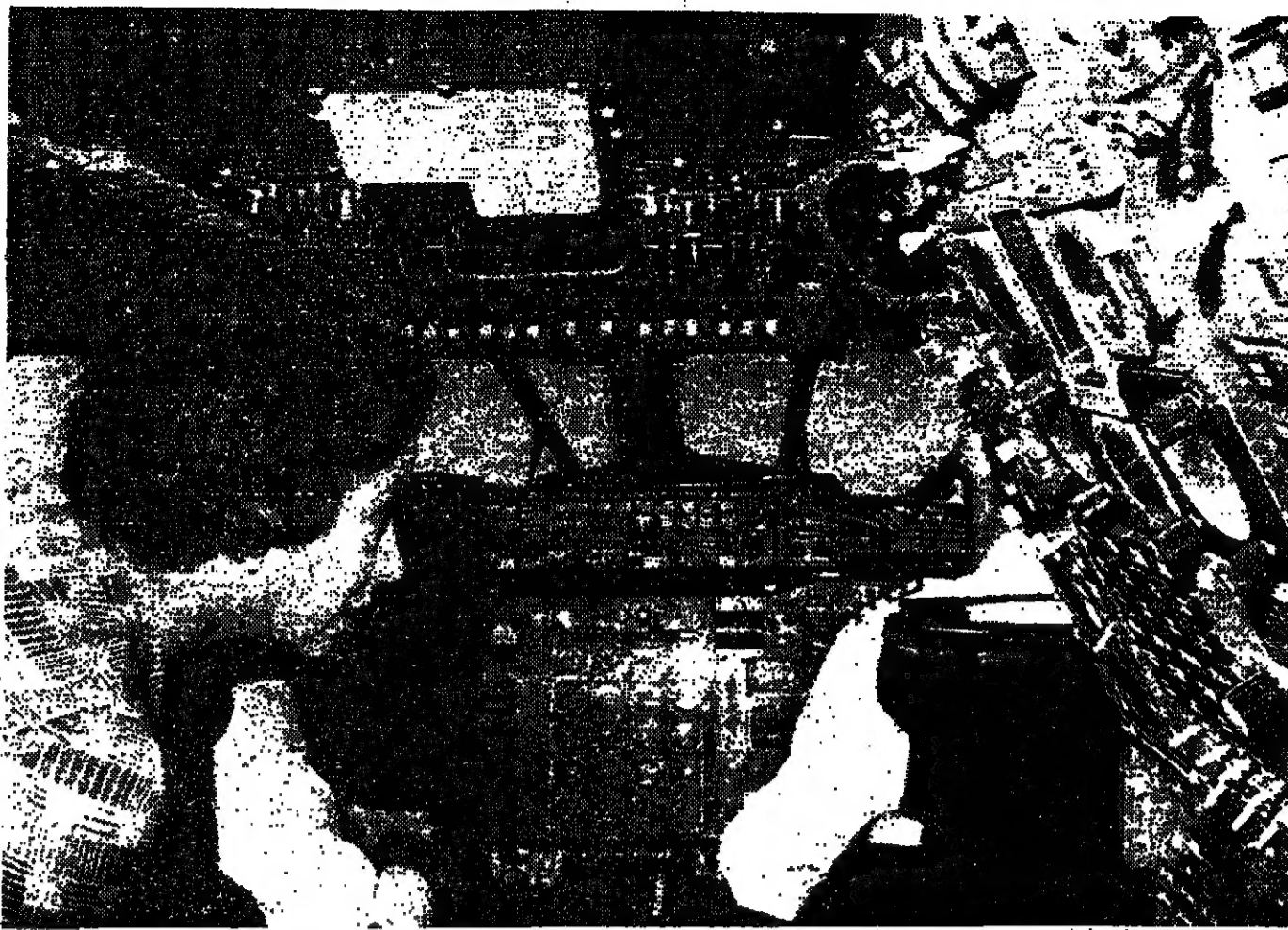
A sample of people aged between 65 and 74 produced similar results, showing that the next generation of very old people are also likely to lead isolated and lonely lives.

"We need to produce the real facts and substitute them for conventional wisdom about the elderly", Dr Abrams said. "The prospect in the 1980s and 1990s of a large group of elderly people with no offspring to turn to for support is very large unless something is done now."

His survey showed that in both age groups contact with immediate families made no difference to the likelihood of them seeking companionship in clubs. In the younger age group twice as many women living alone as those living with their children went to clubs. But the number of women who joined clubs was less than a fifth of those living alone.

Admiralty research

The Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment has been chosen as the name for a new Ministry of Defence research establishment



The Queen taking a close look at the crowded banks of instruments when she visited the flight deck of Concorde on her way home from Barbados yesterday.

At the parish pump: An incident on the beach at Barafundle Bay Court told of the naked man from the sea

By Michael Horsnell

Births, deaths and some undignified sexual antics hold their usual prominent positions in the columns of local newspapers throughout Britain this week.

And judging from the advertising revenue that must be pouring into the coffers of many weeklies, nothing will ever replace their trusted formula of "hatches, matches and dispatches" in the affections of local publishers for whom the grey columns of the serious national newspapers must seem as unprofitable.

In its series of eavesdropping at the parish pump, *The Times* has discovered the most touching story of the week in the *Bedfordshire Times*, which was published on the day that young Kerri-Anne Dougan celebrated her first birthday with her parents in the small village of Clepham. What made the occasion extra special was the fact that Kerri-Anne underwent an awful struggle for survival 12

months before, when she was born weighing 11b 12oz at Bedford Hospital. Her parents were told not to hold out too much hope for her. Today she is a happy bouncing baby.

At the other end of the life cycle the *Brecon and Radnor Express* sadly reports the passing of several local worthies.

The funeral gloom is lifted with reports of the Baptist Missionary Society Women's Auxiliary meeting in Brecon and a dance at Bishop Meadow, Brecon, organized by the local committee for cancer relief.

But in between those light-hearted affairs is the sombre reminder of dust and ashes so often to be found in Welsh newspapers: "Doug Prosser, the only undertaker in Brecon with his own hearse".

If "hatches and dispatches" did particularly well in the past week so too did the other.

The *Western Telegraph* and *Cymric Times*, published at Haverfordwest, reported the case of a man who emerged naked from the sea and

attacked a woman, starting to tear off her clothes as she walked along the beach at Barafundle Bay, Dyfed. Fortunately she was able to defend herself with a knife she had picked up on the cliffs, a court was told. Meanwhile a friend of the victim managed to place a dog whip round the man's neck. The man later told the judge: "I think it was temporary insanity".

Sex also tears its ugly head in east London, where the *Stratford Express* reports that "gym-slip lovers" are helping to send attendance figures "rockering" at Newham's only VD clinic.

Never a paper to let go of a good story when it gets one, the *Express* has another front-page report on the allegations of doctors and nurses at the very same clinic that they are working there in "Dickensian conditions".

Where births, marriages and deaths allow the space, local newspapers continue to take an interest in waste and in vandalism.

The *Western Telegraph* (again) reports that Dyfed Area Health Authority has been forced to write off "time-expired catgut" valued at £103 at Ceredigion Hospital, together with a patient's cardigan shrunk in the laundry (£41), another patient's trousers (£3.99), a flag worth £14 stolen from Aber-gwili Road ambulance station, and a catering manager's trousers (£7.99) accidentally damaged.

I have always refrained from writing about vandals since a former editor told me not to unless the persons in question were wearing leather skirts, helmets and short swords.

A similar restriction has clearly not been placed on staff at the *Wells Journal* in Somerset. There, vandals have apparently already started attacking East Harptree's silver jubilee seat, sited in the ground of the social centre. Villagers have told the parish council that attempts have been made to knock out the seat wedges with rocks.

Civil Service moderates win round 1 on elections

By Donald Macintyre

Labour Reporter

Members of the Civil and Public Services' Association, Britain's biggest Civil Service union, have voted 76,640 to 22,506 in favour of individual rather than branch balloting in elections of officials.

But that referendum result has yet to be debated at a rules revision conference at Southport later this month, when a two-thirds majority will be required to abandon the branch system.

Moderates favour the individual ballot on the ground that branch elections tend to exclude non-activists who cannot be bothered to attend meetings. Leading right wingers said yesterday that the result was a magnificent vindication of their view that the members as a whole wanted the change.

But since fewer than half the union's 234,000 members took part and a large minority of branches did not issue ballot papers the outcome of the conference is uncertain.

Mr Leonard Lever, the association's president, said: "The number of people who took part in the poll was higher than expected, and so was the size of the majority. But many of the people who took part voted without discussion of the sort there will be at the conference."

The internal dissension between the left and right over the issue surfaced briefly at yesterday's press conference to announce the results when the two sides argued over the virtue of a change and the reasons why so many branches had failed to produce referendum returns.

Both sides acknowledged that some branches had felt daunted by the prospect because of the wide geographical distribution of members.

Mr Charles Elliott, a leading right-winger, the original proposer of the policy change and a member of the association's general purposes committee, said political reasons had been behind many branches' failure to carry out the referendum.

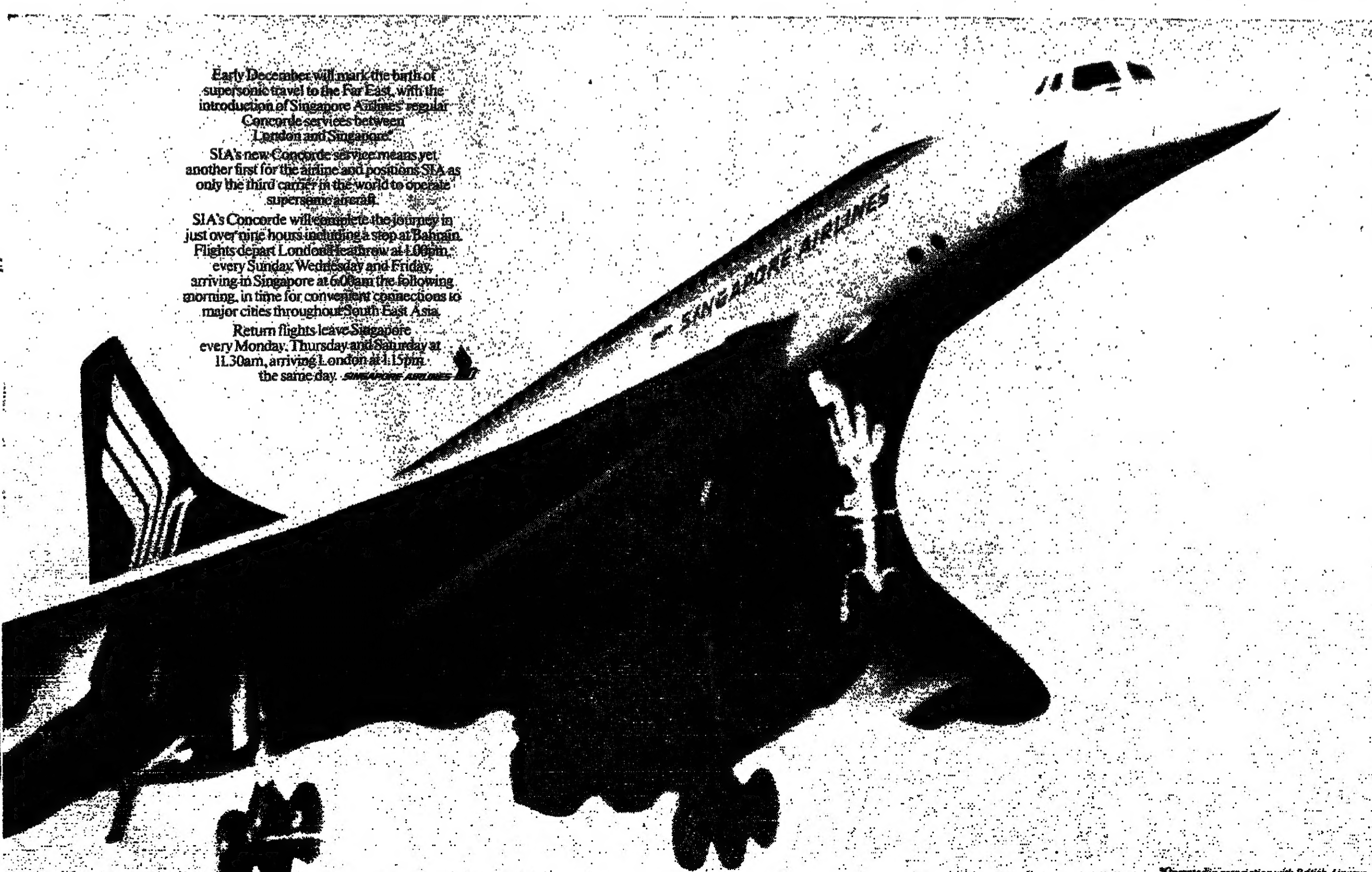
Mr Reginald Williams, the union's left-wing senior vice-president, said an investigation of the branches that did not respond would show that both right-wing and left-wing-dominated branches had not taken part.

Early December will mark the birth of supersonic travel to the Far East, with the introduction of Singapore Airlines regular Concorde services between London and Singapore.

SIA's new Concorde service means yet another first for the airline and positions SIA as only the third carrier in the world to operate supersonic aircraft.

SIA's Concorde will complete the journey in just over nine hours including a stop at Bahrain. Flights depart London Heathrow at 1.00pm, every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, arriving in Singapore at 6.00am the following morning, in time for convenient connections to major cities throughout South East Asia.

Return flights leave Singapore every Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 11.30am, arriving London at 1.15pm the same day. SINGAPORE AIRLINES



*Operated in association with British Airways.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES GOES SUPERSONIC!

HOME NEWS

Working-class people 'reluctant to use publicly owned sports and leisure facilities'

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Large publicly owned and financed sports centres and leisure complexes are benefiting mainly the better off, not the whole community as was intended, a report by the Department of the Environment states.

Its findings are similar to those of a report published last month by Political and Economic Planning, which advocated a network of smaller and more accessible facilities.

The department's report, published yesterday, observed that local authorities rarely carry out any monitoring as to who uses their sports facilities, their socio-economic status or incomes. There thus appear to be no policies to increase participation by those who do not use them.

It quotes an unofficial study of one centre in inner London, which found that most people using it were in the white-collar professions, and that four fifths of them came from the centre. The dominant activities were squash, badminton and tennis, which were traditionally higher-income sports.

The existence of an appar-

ently unsatisfied demand among the middle classes and their "stiff" in using available facilities have resulted not only in resentment by local people but a reluctance by them to use such facilities at all, the report states. They have a sense of exclusion and a feeling that "people like us don't go".

It cites the case of a sports centre near a working-class estate where "the local people never got a look in, the clubs began booking straightaway and the report got around that it was exclusively for posh people and so it was not for them".

The locals, mostly immigrants, were intimidated by the building and by the attitudes of the staff. They also complained about visitors parking their cars in the adjoining streets.

The report, however, implies that working-class attitudes and habits may be at least partly to blame. It quotes another survey, which found that on a council estate in Hammarby, Sweden, a wide variety of art, drama, music, sports and educational facilities in the neighbourhood were used by residents themselves of them. Immigrants in particular, even

viewed the public library, as they did other public offices, with a mixture of misgiving, doubt and suspicion.

It notes that outside the public sector "and scarcely noticed by the professional administrators" are various sporting and recreational activities organized by and for working-class communities. The most widespread are working men's clubs, which are run by their own members.

The report suggests that local authorities should cease to be "paternalistic providers of facilities" and increase support for existing leisure institutions, encouraging them in new enterprises.

In a foreword, Mr Howell, Minister for Sport and Recreation, emphasizes that the report is a research document and not a statement of government policy. But he adds that he is "convinced that at a time of severe economic restraint we should re-examine our whole attitude to leisure provision to ensure that all the physical and human resources in the community are fully and effectively utilized".

Recreation and Deprivation in Inner Urban Areas (Stationery Office, £1.50).

AA awards seven superlative citations

By Robin Young, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Automobile Association today names the most restful refuge from the busy-busy of modern living in Britain. In its opinion, backed by a full colour page in the 1977 AA Guide to Hotels and Restaurants published today, it is Lastingham Grange, a hotel in 10 acres of its own fields and garden, beside Spaunton Moor, North Yorkshire.

Mr Dennis Wood, whose family has run the hotel since 1955, was ruffled about the accolade yesterday, feeling that if he had been the goose that laid the golden eggs he might just have been killed.

"It seems to defeat the object of the exercise," he said. "We may have cherabans rolling up soon, and be overrun with people." Meanwhile, according to the AA book, "visitors recall the sound of the wind, bird song and humming insects". The place obviously has charm: Mr Wood first went there in 1950 for a holiday.

The AA gives six other superlative citations. To the Ritz Hotel goes the nomination for the most elegant dining room, although, of course, the new owner, has yet to complete its £2m refurbishment in other parts of the hotel.

Britain's most exciting restaurant is in Edinburgh. It is called Flappers and has what the AA calls "dynamic 1920s decor". Scotland has the prettiest restaurant too, La Poinçonne, at Gullane, Lothian, a converted sweet shop with the atmosphere of a cottage porch.

The most authentic United Kingdom period restaurant, traditionalists may not be pleased to know, has a bistro in the bar and a courtyard geared to do-it-yourself barbecues.

The guide recommends nearly five thousand places. Of 4,052 hotels classified, only 57 are awarded red stars for special merit. Of 1,146 restaurants, six win triple rosettes for excellent cuisine.

There is, the AA concludes, scope for improvement, although in our best restaurants have never been better, and there are more and better hotels and more that are better run. We also have some of the world's worst establishments, notably personal services, non-strategic planning and highways/traffic management where they have the capacity and resources to take them on. This is not suggesting another reorganization, but a realistic shift of some functions within the existing structure.

The association has made proposals to give district authorities some "essentially local services, notably personal services, non-strategic planning and highways/traffic management where they have the capacity and resources to take them on. This is not suggesting another reorganization, but a realistic shift of some functions within the existing structure".

AA Guide to Hotels and Restaurants, £2.25 (or £2.55 to members, £2.25 by post).

Further council changes opposed

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

Any change in the existing functions of the two tiers of local government would inevitably result in considerable cost for the taxpayers, the Association of County Councils was told yesterday.

Mr Gervais Walker, chairman of the association's policy committee, said members of the Government might be planning a "reorganization by stealth" of some of the functions of the county and district authorities.

At the same time the Association of District Councils released a memorandum to the Government proposing changes in the allocation of functions between the two tiers because it was "particularly concerned about the expense, waste, uncertainty and delay stemming from the present overlaps and duplication of powers".

Speaking on the eve of the Queen's Speech, Mr Walker said that if the Government were to look at the division of functions "we could find ourselves faced gradually with profound changes without major legislation".

It was mentioned in the Queen's Speech, members should not be lulled into thinking that the matter had been dropped. He believed that Mr

Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, was determined to bring about an "organic change" in the two-tier system.

Mr Walker said the Labour Party's document on English devolution published in August might be the forerunner of future policies. It had been suggested that the main biggest non-metropolitan cities might be given back some of the functions they had as county boroughs before reorganization in 1973.

"It is not just the nine. There are many other old county boroughs which would welcome their powers back again, and that would be a move towards a complete reorganization, and towards regionalism, which the association is firmly against."

There was ample evidence that the services considered for transfer, including education and social services, were the very ones that were now working smoothly and giving a better service to the community. "That is what local government is about, service to the community, not how the members of an authority can wield more power."

Mr Walker asked the Government to make a categorical statement that it would not tamper with local government, to re-

assure both council staff and the public.

"There is not one shred of evidence that services would be as all improved. It would be a reorganization that nobody wants."

In its observations on the government consultation document, *Devolution: the English Dimension*, the Association of District Councils emphasized the need to bring local government closer to the people it served. "Bigger is no longer better, and the old argument of economies of scale can be a snare and delusion where finance and priorities are outside the control of elected district members who are closest to the public."

Decision-making should be at district level wherever practicable. "The public wants instinctively to the district councillor and local town hall with any problems about the public services."

The association has made proposals to give district authorities some "essentially local services, notably personal services, non-strategic planning and highways/traffic management where they have the capacity and resources to take them on. This is not suggesting another reorganization, but a realistic shift of some functions within the existing structure".

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Listeners face difficulties over BBC changes

By a Staff Reporter

The radio wavelength changes announced by the BBC, which will come into effect in a year's time, may present difficulties to listeners whose radio sets do not receive on all three wavebands: long wave, medium wave and VHF.

The changes will mean that listeners who have turned to medium wave for both Radio Four and Radio Three transmissions will have to look elsewhere in future: to long wave for Radio Four and to VHF (at least during the hours of darkness) for Radio Three.

At present, the BBC estimates almost half of the sets in use in the United Kingdom provide VHF coverage, and about seven eighths provide long wave reception.

Many people will thus be forced to buy new sets if they want comprehensive coverage, and although the BBC provides a list of radio sets available, many do not provide all three wavebands.

The BBC has already been discussing the wavelength changes with British radio manufacturers, but most radio sets sold in the United Kingdom are now imported and so British listeners are now rather dependent on what foreign makers will supply.

Many foreign sets will provide medium wave and VHF but do not include the long wave band. Although BBC executives believe that in Japan, which is the source of a large proportion of the sets sold in Britain, there is now increasing interest in the use of long waves.

Britain's wealth of spoon-benders give scientists a topic for discussion

By Alan Hamilton

Britain and Japan have a higher proportion of spoon-benders than any other countries in the world, according to an American researcher into the paranormal.

The two countries have, for no good reason, more than their fair share of the estimated 10,000 gifted people in the world who can distort cutlery simply by thinking about it, although there is a strong challenge from Brazil.

Those and other recent discoveries into the phenomenon launched by Mr Uri Geller on a celebrated BBC television programme four years ago are to be discussed by a panel of scientists at a conference at the Commonwealth Institute in London tomorrow evening.

Dr Andrija Puharich, a Yugoslav-born scientist now working in the United States, has carried out extensive tests on Mr Geller and has since examined more than seventy other people with similar powers.

He said yesterday: "All I and my colleagues can say is that spoon-bending is not a showman's trick. We have verified the phenomenon, but we cannot explain it."

The conference is being organized by the Orb Foundation, an American educational charity, which has recently opened a branch in London. During an hour-long interview at the foundation's West End offices, all my pens ran dry, but Dr Puharich disclaimed all responsibility.

Speakers at the conference



Dr Andrija Puharich: Cannot explain phenomenon.

will include Professor John Taylor, Professor of Mathematics at King's College London, and Colonel Tom Bearden, a retired United States Army officer, who has sinister ideas on the military implications of spoon-bending.

Colonel Bearden believes that the Soviet Union is twenty years ahead of the West on what he calls psychotronic weaponry, which he secretly believes is being used to implant unparanormal thoughts into the minds of embassy staff.

Dr Puharich, a former United

States Army medical officer, said Mr Geller's BBC television appearance had been a seminal event in the history of paranormal behaviour.

Since then researchers have found a man in Brazil who can paint in the Impressionist manner of Monet while blindfolded and a woman in the United States who can cure lesions and tumours of the skin by the laying-on of hands.

"What we need," Dr Puharich said, "is another Einstein to draw up a theory we can prove. For the present, we have difficulty in convincing people that we are on to something."

On September 27, Raspe suggested that the Government was trying to find a "police solution" to the Schleyer kidnapping, instead of releasing himself and 10 other jailed terrorists as demanded.

If that should happen, he said, the terrorists had planned a "political catastrophe, namely the death of prisoners". He did not elaborate.

On October 8 Bearden said he and his comrades would not put up with their situation much longer. The Government would soon "no longer have the prisoners at its disposal".

Asked if he was not being unrealistic, Bearden replied, the official said, "This was a threat". In a few hours or days the jailed terrorists would make "an irreversible decision". The official commented: "He can only have meant suicide."

The following day Bearden said that they, rather than the Government, would soon make a decision, "in so far as it is still possible—a decision about ourselves".

Spy to appeal against order of deportation

From Ronald Kershaw, Leeds

Nicholas Prager, aged 49, an electrical engineer, formerly of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, who left Wakefield prison on Monday after serving six years of a 12-year sentence for passing Britain's V-bomber secrets while serving in the RAF, is to appeal against a deportation order, notice of which has been served on him.

He will meet Mr Jack Levi, his solicitor, tomorrow to work out the details.

Mr Levi said last night that Mr Prager was in a unique position. "On the one hand he is on parole which continues until the end of his sentence, and yet he has been issued with notice of a deportation order. The deportation is to Czechoslovakia but they will not accept him, according to his wife. The British authorities may keep him here until some country will accept him."

No protection of wildfowl area from port works

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government has confirmed that Seal Sands, Cleveland, guarded by meadows as one of Britain's most important habitats for wildfowl and other migratory birds, will not be protected from future port or industrial expansion.

Announcing approval yesterday of structure plans for Teesside, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said the continued growth of the port of Teesside was of local, regional and national importance to the overall economy.

The need for developing might arise quickly and unexpectedly, and there should be freedom for it to proceed.

He had taken into account the ornithological importance of Seal Sands, and considered that the need for port development on Teesside's eastern coast was a very different and interesting role. We Socialists will be a

WEST EUROPE



Mr Maurits Caransa telling reporters how he was chained to a bed for five days.

Kidnappers free Dutch millionaire for £2m in traceable banknotes

From Our Correspondent

Amsterdam, Nov 2

Mr Maurits Caransa, the Dutch property millionaire kidnapped last Friday, was set free today after negotiating his own release for a ransom of about £2m.

He said his captors had insisted emphatically that they were not political gangsters. "All we want is money," they said. Oddly enough they accepted the ransom in brand new 1,000 gulder (about £220) notes, of which the serial numbers are known.

During his 120-hour captivity, Mr Caransa said, he had been kept handcuffed to a bed in almost total darkness. Five days almost to the minute since he was seized outside an Amsterdam nightclub on Friday Mr Caransa was left by his captors in a square in Amsterdam's harbour, quarter at about 1.30 am.

Shouting "Here is Caransa!" he was the kidnapped millionaire. I saw the kidnapped Caransa in a moped who offered to give him a lift to police headquarters. However, as a taxi

arrived on the scene he took it to police headquarters, arriving at 2 am.

According to police officials he appeared somewhat dazed but otherwise in good health. After receiving medical attention and being interrogated, he was driven home by ambulance.

In the early afternoon Mr Caransa told a press conference that he had negotiated for two days over the amount of the ransom. Originally his kidnappers had demanded 40m guilders (about £9m) but had finally settled for 10m guilders.

After reaching this agreement Mr Caransa wrote to his office on Sunday afternoon with instructions to his bank to prepare the ransom money. Weighing 20 kilograms, it was handed over in the street by someone from Mr Caransa's office, presumably to one of the kidnappers.

He said his kidnapping had been well prepared. He was taken to a room which had been specially pencilled-in, and the walls covered with musical notes. The room had a toilet. His four captors had spoken to him over an intercom or else

hooded and gloved using a flashlight with a red filter on it.

There were two radios in his room, so that he was able to follow the news of his kidnapping. The kidnappers spoke to him in English but talked French with a Mediterranean accent amongst themselves. Mr Caransa thought that one of his abductors could have been Dutch.

When he was being overpowered in the small hours of last Friday he had feared for his life. He was continuously beaten on the head and was afraid that his kidnappers would go on until he was dead. He therefore pretended to lose consciousness.

In Amsterdam the police have found a beige car with false number plates that were looking for in connection with the kidnapping. Chief Inspector Gerard Koozemans of the Amsterdam police called the kidnapping "a serious criminal act which has not occurred before in The Netherlands". No effort would be spared to capture the kidnappers.

Baader hint of suicides in Bonn official records

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, Nov 2

The three Baader-Meinhof terrorists who committed suicide in prison gave thinly veiled warnings that they would kill themselves in talks with Federal officials during the suicide before their deaths, according to government documents made available here.

The officials also became aware from their conversations that the terrorists, who were supposed to be isolated from each other, were in contact with each other during the Schleyer kidnapping and the Luftwaffe hijacking, knew what was going on and had contact with each other.

Details were disclosed in 224 pages of documents on the kidnapping and hijacking presented by the Government to Parliament and the press today. They included reports by an unnamed official or officials of the Federal Criminal Office on conversations in Stammheim prison with the three terrorists: Andreas Baader, Jan-Carl Raspe and Gudrun Ensslin.

On September 27, Raspe suggested that the Government was trying to find a "police solution" to the Schleyer kidnapping, instead of releasing himself and 10 other jailed terrorists as demanded.

If that should happen, he said, the terrorists had planned a "political catastrophe, namely the death of prisoners". He did not elaborate.

On October 8 Baader said he and his comrades would not put up with their situation much longer. The Government would soon "no longer have the prisoners at its disposal".

Asked if he was not being unrealistic, Baader replied, the official said, "This was a threat". In a few hours or days the jailed terrorists would make "an irreversible decision". The official commented: "He can only have meant suicide."

The following day Ensslin said that they, rather than the Government, would soon make a decision, "in so far as it is still possible—a decision about ourselves".

UPL

French deputies cheer Lévesque speech

From Ian Murray

Paris, Nov 2

Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, told the French National Assembly today that he "was more and more sure that a new democratic country would soon appear on the map". He was long and loudly applauded.

He commented that a referendum would be organized before the next Canadian elections which were due in 1980 or 1981, so that the choice "of a sovereign Quebec" would be made of all its internal life and of its future.

Mr Lévesque thanked the assembly for allowing him to be received there and he called for support for Quebec from the French-speaking world.

Mr Lévesque, who is on a three-day official visit to Paris, entered the assembly in style near the end of Question Time. He was preceded by the main speaker of the Palais Bourbon by six ushers with tallcoats, silver-tipped sticks and black hats carried ceremonially. It

was the first time the staircase had been used since the days of Louis XIV, 150 years ago. At the end of Question Time the rostrum was given over to him.

Closer links, especially economic, between France and Quebec, he said, were being developed during Mr Lévesque's visit. In a series of talks with M Barre, the Prime Minister, and in a meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing and the entire Government tomorrow, he would discuss the ways and means of future cooperation as being discussed.

The Premier arrived at Orly airport last morning to be greeted by M Barre, who told him: "We are going to look to ways to deepen our cooperation during your stay, which will allow us to confirm the very broadly held view that exists."

Mr Lévesque responded in kind. He recalled the spirit of equality which existed between France and Quebec. He had come to Paris to tell the French people "where we are and where we hope to go on the path of emancipation."

Leading article, page 15

Policeman kills bank raider after fire threat

Dortmund, West Germany

Nov 2—A policeman today shot dead a 33-year-old labourer who had threatened to set fire to a women bank official if the bank would not give him £12,500.

The man told the women he was interested in making a "credit" of police spokesman said. When he and the woman began talking business in another room the labourer suddenly doused her with petrol and threatened to set her on fire if the bank did not give him the money immediately.

But the cashier, who apparently had got wind of the attack, called police. The crew of a patrol car opened fire after the man refused to surrender and after he tried several times to set fire to the woman with a lighter.—UPL

Giscard visit to Britain set for December

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 2

President Giscard d'Estaing has accepted an invitation from Mr Callaghan to visit Britain on December 12 and 13. This is the second meeting in the series since the President's successful visit to Britain in June of last year.

On that occasion the need for closer relations between the two countries was agreed by both leaders in the course of five hours of discussions. An official communiqué then said that there would in future be an annual meeting at this level alternately in France and Britain.

Mr Callaghan was the first to pay a visit, staying at Rambouillet on November 11 and 12, last year. On that occasion he won firm French support for the International Monetary Fund loan and there was sym-

France flies out troops in hostages move

From Ian Murray

Paris, Nov 2

France has sent several DC8 transport aircraft to Cap Vert, near Dakar, Senegal, with reinforcements for the garrison there as a result of recent events in the Western Sahara. The aircraft left the airport of Toulouse-Bagnac during the night, but official sources so far have refused to say how many men were on board.

The likelihood is that 300 of the commandos and paratroops who have been on stand-by since last week, when news came of the taking of two more French hostages in the Western Sahara, have been sent to within easy striking distance of the Polisario rebels. The Polisario guerrillas are fighting for the independence of Western Sahara, which has been divided between Morocco and Mauritania.

France is maintaining strong diplomatic pressure on Algeria, which is held responsible for arming and harbouring the Polisario, to use its influence to free the hostages. With six others taken in May and five who had disappeared in January of last year, the French are believed to be holding 13 French nationals. So far nothing has been heard of any of them since their capture.

In French eyes these actions are no less reprehensible than that of the hijacking of the Luftwaffe Boeing last month. It is hoped here that they will be similarly condemned when the United Nations discusses hijacking at Tuesday.

The Algerians see things differently. Whatever proof there is of their material support for the movement, there is no proof that they have been able to control the Polisario. The Polisario movement has not been recognized by France. It is possible that if this were done, it would smooth the way to negotiations to free the hostages.

President Ould Daddah of Mauritania, where the French technicians kidnapped last week were working, said in an interview on French radio today that the Polisario guerrillas were "Algerian mercenaries". They would not dare to do what they had without Algerian support.

The hostages are probably scattered in different camps in the desert, which would make any military operation to rescue them almost impossible.

Algiers, Nov 2—Mr Muhammad Ould Salek, the Polisario Minister of Information, said in a press interview today: "The dispatch of French troops to Mauritania via Dakar unmasks the designs of the French Government against our region and the African continent"—AP.

Woman jailed for spying

Düsseldorf, Nov 2—A West German Foreign Ministry woman secretary was jailed for five years here today for spying for East Germany. Helge Bensch was 36 years old.

The dispatch of French troops to Mauritania via Dakar unmasks the designs of the French Government against our region and the African continent.—AP.

Memorial altar for Calas donated

Siracusa, Italy, Nov 2—Signor Giovanni Maria Meneghini, the estranged husband of the late Maria Calas, has donated a sixteenth-century altar piece to a local church to honour the memory of the singer, who died in Paris last September.

Policeman kills bank raider after fire threat

Dortmund, West Germany

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OVERSEAS

Council proposed for supervising ethics code to end corruption

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Nov. 2

Corruption has become such a "creeping pollution" of the social, political and economic life in most countries of the world that governments must be shamed into action to end it, Lord Shawcross said in an address to the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

In some parts of South-East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, corruption was so prevalent that it was an accepted way of life and not regarded as unethical at all.

There are only two countries in which corruption no longer exists, although once it did, Lord Shawcross said.

"One is China, from a third tour of which I have just come back. The other is Singapore in which under the strong leadership of the remarkable man, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, corruption has been vigorously suppressed."

For the rest, corruption occurred in virtually all countries and was eroding the fair and open competition on which private enterprise was based.

Lord Shawcross made it clear that his remarks were not directed at Hongkong, which was tackling the problem in a realistic way, but he was speaking here as the result of an invitation from the Chamber to address it on the problem of international corruption.

"In the international field, corruption is by no means confined to the police and to public officials," he said. "It is something which in all countries—although more in some than others—is a creeping pollution of our social, political and economic life."

"Its existence is being used, with great hypocrisy, in the United Nations and elsewhere by some developing countries as a stick with which to beat private enterprise in general and the transnational corporations in particular, regardless of the fact that it is in these very countries that the hands are being held out to receive bribes which would never be paid but for the pressures which are exerted on those engaged in international commerce. Bribery now is mainly the reaction to extortion."

In 1975 the International Chamber of Commerce set up a commission to study the problem, consisting of himself, M Jean Rey, one-time chairman of the European Commission, Shakh Yamani of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Kheradji, a leading banker from Iran, Mr. William Simon, a former Secretary of the United States Treasury, and other well-known figures. They presented their report a month ago.

"It contains strong recommendations to governments to

clean up matters in their own countries. We must shame some of these governments into action. But the international business community cannot afford to wait upon action by governments that will take years. We must act now."

"We have drawn a code of ethical practices to combat extortion and bribery or kick-backs. They insist upon proper and true financial records—no false invoices or slush funds and so forth."

The observance of this code was of course voluntary so they considered it essential to set up an international council to supervise its application; otherwise it would be a toothless animal.

"We already have such a council to administer the codes on advertising and marketing practices which has worked well. The proposed council would have as a last resort, only if legal action, diplomatic representation or negotiation was not available, the right, at its discretion, to hear complaints that the code had been broken."

But even here the council could adjudge only if the complaint against which the complaint was made consented to the jurisdiction.

These were perhaps but milk teeth, but they could afford great protection to businesses exposed to extortion. They would be able to say: "We cannot pay because we should get into trouble under the ICC code."

The commission's work was finished and it was now for the International Chamber of Commerce meeting at the end of the month to decide whether to adopt the report.

Our Business News Staff writes: A spokesman for the International Chamber of Commerce said in London that the commission's report would be considered by its policy-making council on November 29. To the best of his knowledge, there was no intention of making the draft code on ethical practices public until the council had met.

Washington, Nov. 2.—The House of Representatives yesterday passed a Bill to outlaw bribes and other improper payments by American companies and their foreign subsidiaries.

It sets a \$1m (£550,000) fine for corporations making such payments. Officers and directors who approved these payments would face \$10,000 fines and up to five years jail.

A similar Bill was passed by the Senate in May but the fines it proposes are smaller and foreign subsidiaries are not covered, so a House-Senate conference may be needed to work out these differences.—Reuters.

Hit-and-run journalist must go to jail

Hongkong, Nov. 2.—A Canadian journalist today failed to persuade a magistrate to review a jail sentence for offences arising from a hit-and-run traffic accident in which a policeman was severely injured. Barrie Came, of Newsweek magazine, was last week convicted of dangerous driving, causing grievous bodily harm, and failing to stop after an accident. He was jailed for a month, fined about £240 and disqualified from driving for two years.

Rejecting an application for a review of sentence, Mr. Paul Corio, the magistrate, said he appreciated that the driving ban would affect Mr. Came's career.

Manila troops overrun Muslim camp

Zamboanga City, Nov. 2.—Government forces overran a large Muslim rebel camp in the southern Philippines yesterday after two weeks of fierce fighting, military authorities said today.

They said that a number of rebel officers and men were either killed or captured in the stronghold in the mountains of Tabon, 50 miles north-east of Zamboanga City.

A number of government soldiers were reported killed but no official casualty figures were released. Tabon was described as a rough and foggy coastal area difficult to penetrate by ground forces.—UPI.

Greek protest at shelving of Cyprus atrocities report

From Our Correspondent
Athens, Nov. 2

Greece has protested strongly to the EEC over its initiative in having the report of the Human Rights Commission on alleged Turkish atrocities in Cyprus shelved at the last meeting of the Council of Europe.

The report, excerpts of which have leaked to the British press, is still officially secret. So is the Turkish Government's 500-page reply and counter-charges.

Now it is understood that a proposal sponsored by the EEC governments, postponing publication of the report was adopted at a recent meeting. The proposal gives a time-limit of nine months for the adoption of "appropriate measures" to remedy human

rights abuses in Cyprus, but apparently does not specify which side must adopt the measures.

Mr. Demetrios Bitsios, the Greek Foreign Minister, last week summoned the Belgian Ambassador to express the Greek Government's sharp reaction and annoyance at the position taken by the EEC countries.

It is understood that Mr. Bitsios described the EEC move as a blow to the prestige and credibility of the Council of Europe.

There are indications that the shelving of the report was prompted by hopes that the elimination of this embarrassing issue would help current American-EEC efforts to induce Turkey to make concessions that would facilitate a Cyprus settlement.

The Prince of Wales buys himself a painting

Canberra, Nov. 2.—The Prince of Wales began his 11-day visit to Australia in Canberra today by presenting a prize for an essay on Australia and the monarchy to the great-granddaughter of a seamstress to Queen Victoria.

He asked 17-year-old Annette Shoolman, winner of the nationwide competition: "Was the essay polite?" Her only answer was a giggle.

Observing that 15 per cent of the schoolchildren who submitted entries were in favour of a republic, the Prince remarked: "That really means 25 per cent are in favour of the monarchy, and that's not a bad score in these times."

Competition judges said they were disappointed at the stan-

dard of the 6,000 entries and called for a review of the teaching of British history in Australian schools.

The Prince later opened an exhibition of paintings entitled "The Bushmen of the Bush", the proceeds of which went to charity.

He bought himself a painting of his favourite sport, polo, for \$A450 (£280). The painting, by John N. Pickup, is called "The Home Team attacks." It shows an outback polo match at Broken Hill in the far west of New South Wales.

Afterwards he walked through the streets of Canberra, joking and shaking hands with passers-by. He leaves for Brisbane tomorrow.—Reuters and AP.

Like the time an Avis manager, returning from abroad, found that his car had been rented out due to a sudden demand for cars, and had to travel home by public transport.

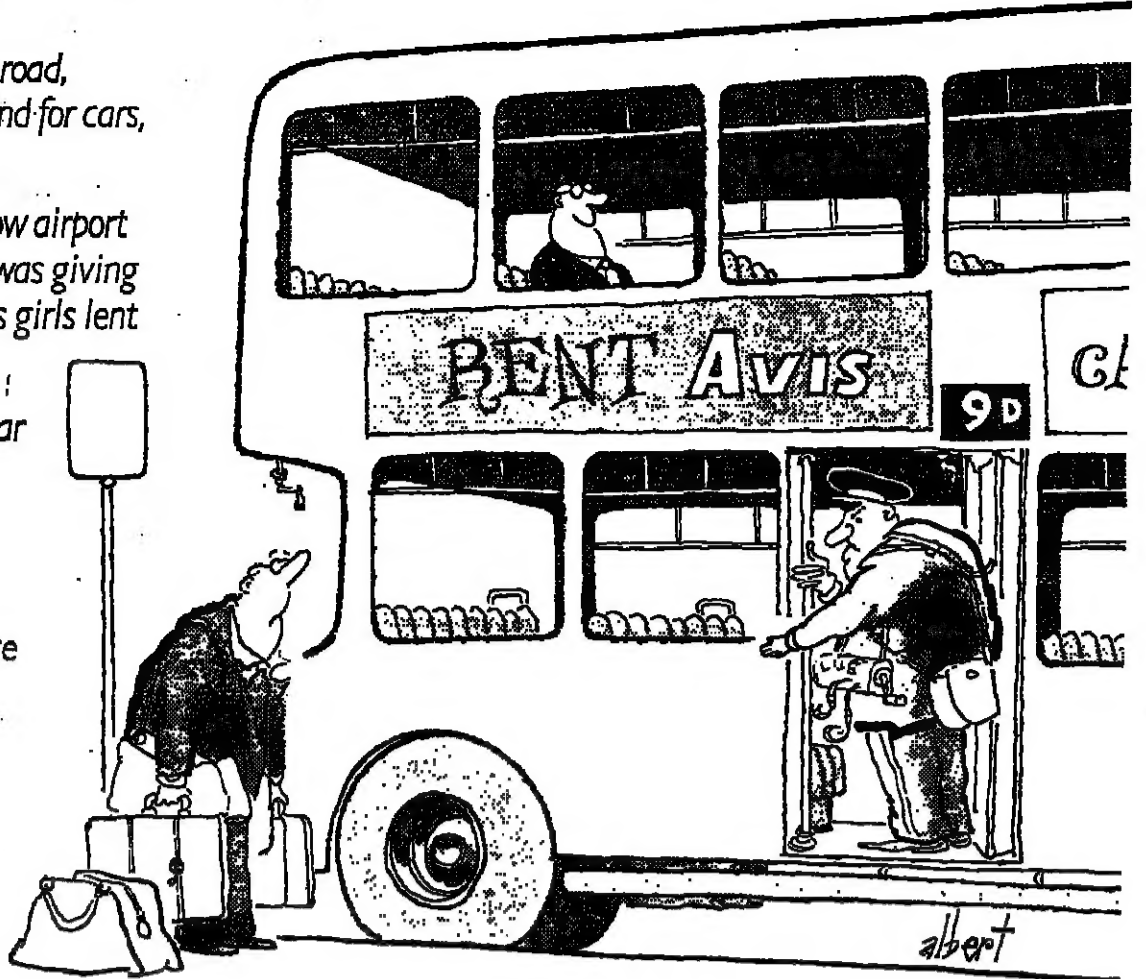
Like the time a customer turned up at our Glasgow airport desk. He was in a panic because he was late for a lecture he was giving at the University. No Avis car was available, so one of our Avis girls lent him her own for the evening.

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OVERSEAS

Lord Carver pelted with rotten tomatoes by an African group on his arrival in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Nov 2

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner-designate in Rhodesia, today arrived in the city which may soon become his temporary home. His reception by Rhodesian government officials was coolly polite, but he received a hostile welcome from a group of African demonstrators.

Lord Carver is in Salisbury to talk about arranging a ceasefire between the Rhodesian armed forces and guerrillas belonging to the nationalist Patriotic Front. As if to underline the urgency of his mission, shortly after his arrival a rocket fired from a Zambian territory hit a luxurious hotel at Victoria Falls, setting the roof ablaze. Mr Peter van der Byl, the Foreign Minister, commented that this was Zambian way of welcoming Lord Carver on his peace mission.

Lord Carver was followed by General Frenk Chanda, the United Nations representative who was accompanied by Mr

James Jonah from Sierra Leone. Mr Macaire Pedanou, from Congo, Mr Benon Sevan, from Cyprus, and Colonel Gerald O'Sullivan from the Irish Army.

Both Lord Carver and General Chanda arrived from Dar es Salaam where they had held talks with Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mngabe, the leaders of the Patriotic Front. They are travelling separately to make it clear that they have different functions.

Lord Carver received a noisy welcome when he arrived at Mirimba House, the former British High Commissioner's residence, where he is staying. A group of about 60 supporters of the Patriotic Front, the People's Organisation (Zupo), brandished placards and pelted Lord Carver's car with rotten bananas and tomatoes. Zupo, an organisation comprising traditional tribal leaders, has not been invited to meet Lord Carver.

Present on the Rhodesian side were Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, commander of combined operations, Lieutenant-General John Hickman, the Army commander, Air Marshal Frank Mussel, chief of the Air Force and Police Commissioner Peter Shenzen.

It is expected that Lord Carver will stay in Rhodesia until the end of the week. He will have further meetings with military and civilian officials as well as the heads of the two internally based nationalist groups, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Nkomo. According to informed sources Lord Carver will visit other African states. These are expected to include other "front line" states—Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia—and probably Nigeria.

The rocket incident took place at Victoria Falls, close to the Zambian border. According to a military spokesman a heat-seeking rocket was fired at a light aircraft which was flying towards the falls. It missed and hit the thatched roof of the Elephant Hills hotel.

Mr Carter losing support

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 2

An opinion poll published by *The New York Times* today shows a further slump in President Carter's popularity. Mr Carter's overall approval rating has dropped to 55 per cent. It was 62 per cent in July and 66 per cent last January. The poll also shows that the President's ability to carry out his various electoral promises also dropped.

Fifty-one per cent think that he can restore trust in government, compared with nearly 70 per cent last summer, only 36 per cent think he can reduce unemployment substantially and 22 per cent he can balance the budget by 1981.

Other findings in the poll are more encouraging for the President. Only 31 per cent approve, and 50 disapprove, of the way Congress is doing its job (Mr Carter's figures are 55 and 27 respectively). On his specific policies, however, the President lacks support. The Panama treaties are opposed by 49 per cent of those asked and defended by 23 per cent, while 51 per cent do not believe there is an energy crisis.

House and Senate at odds on energy bill

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 2

The Senate has completed its energy bill. These measures are now being considered together with the radically different bill from the House of Representatives, by a joint committee of the two Houses.

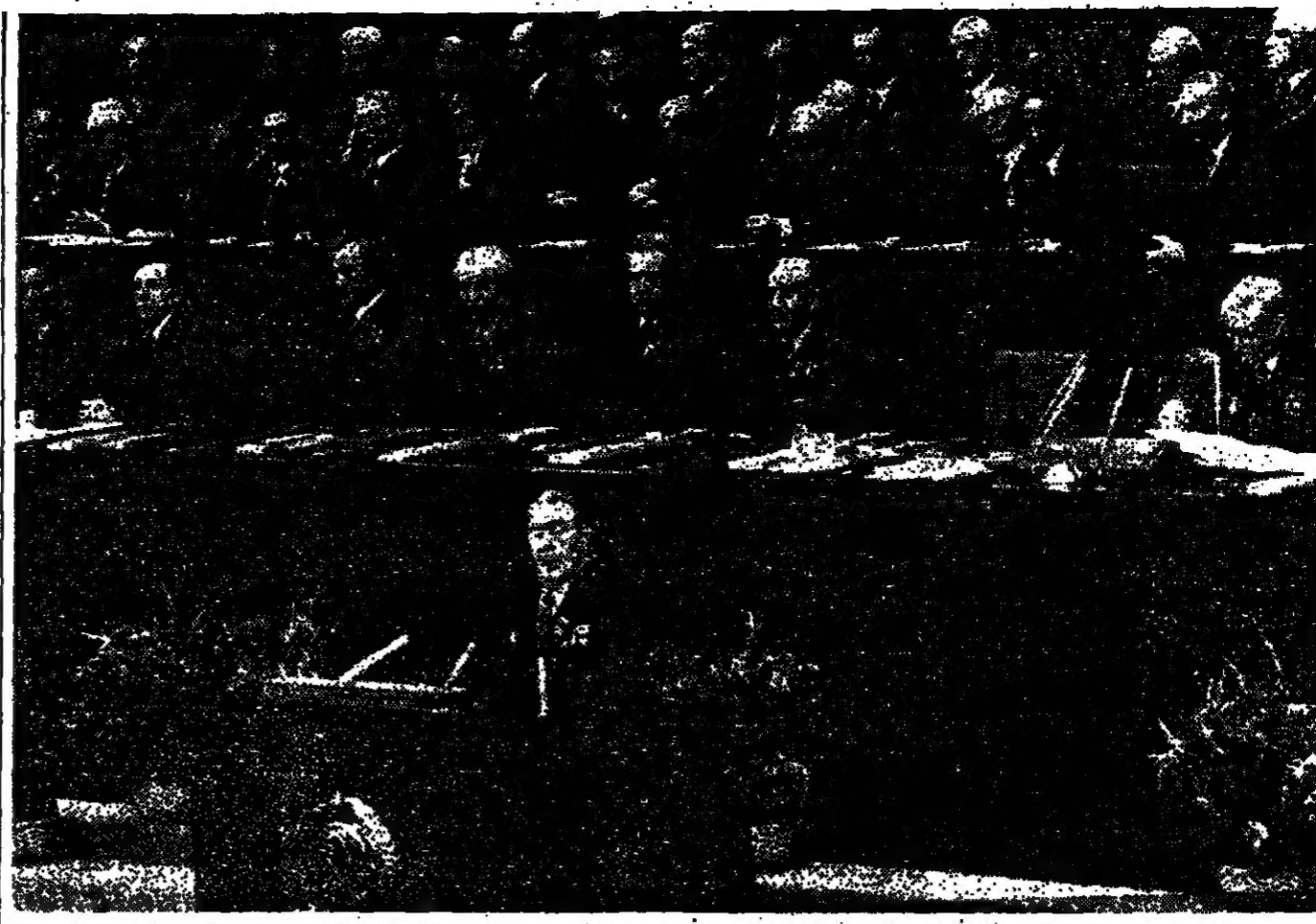
The two versions are so incompatible, and the positions taken by the two sides are so intransigent, that it remains quite possible that there will be no bill at all. President Carter was planning to leave on a world tour on November 23 and may very well have to postpone the trip in order to help his energy package through.

Sixty-seven members of the House have sent a letter to Mr Carter urging him to stick to his guns. The House bill is very similar to the one Mr Carter sent to Congress last April, and its supporters in the House fear that the President's departure for some achievement this year, may bow to the will of Senator Russell Long, and back the Senate's version of the bill. Mr Long is chairman of the finance committee, and the Senate last week gave him carte blanche for his dealings with the House in the joint committee. His skill on such occasions is a product of modern times: no other senator in

memory can match it, and the House liberals are rightly afraid Mr Long represents the oil-producing state of Louisiana. He accepts that there is an oil crisis, and that consumption must be curbed, but he does not believe that the oil companies are engaging in the greatest rip-off in history, as Mr Carter has said.

The President and the House want oil production to be taxed to force its price up and to discourage consumption, and to tax "gas-guzzlers" cars which use too much petrol. Mr Long's committee (and the full Senate) rejected both these taxes and approved instead a series of tax exemptions for oil companies, to incite them to produce more oil.

The Senate has produced a version of Mr Carter's other proposed tax, that on power companies and industries which use oil instead of coal. However, it would only apply to users of fuel oil who could change to coal if they wished, and contains many exemptions. The House version would apply to everyone. The President proposed, and the House agreed, that tax raised from energy should be returned to the public in the form of a rebate. Mr Long thinks the idea idiotic.



Kremlin chiefs and leaders of foreign Communist parties listen as President Brezhnev delivers his 90-minute address.

Drop in Soviet grain harvest surprises West

Moscow, Nov 2.—The Soviet grain harvest, a key factor in the country's economy, has fallen well below its official target this year. President Brezhnev disclosed today.

Speaking at a Kremlin rally, Mr Brezhnev said farmers were expected to produce 194m tonnes of grain, a level which will almost certainly mean increased Soviet purchases on the world market.

Western experts, who had predicted a fairly poor crop because of bad weather, were taken by surprise at the figure, about 134m tonnes short of the plan. It comes at a setback to Soviet agricultural claims that the country is self-sufficient in grain.

The previous year a disastrous 140m tonne harvest led to shortages across the country and soaring grain imports. Mr Brezhnev, touching briefly

on agriculture in his speech marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Revolution, announced that the cotton crop was expected to equal the previous 4m tonne record. Meat production had increased from last year's 13.4m tonnes to nearly 15m tonnes, he added.

He partly attributed the harvest losses to the poor weather which has plagued farmers throughout the Soviet Union. But he alluded to the chronic inefficiency which has afflicted Soviet agriculture since the Revolution.

"I believe these figures merit due appreciation, although we are aware that not all the problems of agriculture have been resolved," he said.

Western agricultural experts said the 1977 results were hurt by early summer droughts in a number of key grain-growing areas east of the Volga river, and by disastrous rains at har-

vest time in North Kazakhstan and Western Siberia.

The extent of those losses obviously galled Western analysts off guard since their latest October projections were for a 1977 Soviet harvest of 205m tonnes of grain. The harvest is now estimated to have been completed throughout the country and although the state is still purchasing grain in some regions all harvesting and threshing has finished.

The final 1977 harvest figure would come within 2m tonnes of the figure projected by Mr Brezhnev. Western experts predicted they said the European part of the Soviet Union—the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Moscow region—harvested a bumper grain crop this year.

The major fallures, however, occurred in the southern and eastern parts of the country. The fall of the crop—about one-third of the total—occurred on the virgin lands of North

Kazakhstan where persistent rains hammered ripe grain flat. Our Commodities Editor writes: Although world grain stocks are at a sufficiently healthy condition to absorb the Soviet shortfall, trade sources in London were expecting the grain and oilseed markets to react by moving higher.

Under the present five-year grain agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States, the Russians are pledged to buy at least 6m tonnes of American wheat and maize each year. In the first year of the pact, which began with deliveries in October, 1975, they bought about the minimum quantity.

The United States Department of Agriculture has said that as far this year the Soviet Union has bought about 2.3m tonnes. Up to 15m tonnes of American grain would be available for sale to Russia this year.

American experiment with 'one day, one trial' system uses computer to eliminate tedium and saves on costs

Taking waiting out of jury service

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 2

He received her notice to appear as a juror in Wayne County, Michigan, she was getting her six-year-old child ready for school. The idea of fulfilling her civic duty was particularly attractive, because she knew that jury service would last a full month.

She had two young children and the car was needed by her sister. The cost of a babysitter and transport would never be covered by the \$15 (\$8.30) a day juror's allowance. So armed with two very plausible excuses she sought a way to get out of jury duty.

Harry was in a different position when he received his summons. He was a self-employed bachelor and thought it would make a pleasant change from his somewhat uninspiring job.

By the end of a month of waiting round court ante-rooms and attending court hearings, Harry was too tired from the late evenings he spent looking after his normal business duties to pay much attention to the proceedings during his final days in court.

The experiences of Donna and Harry have been shared by two million or so other American citizens called for jury service each year. Most say they are bored, frustrated,

and financially worse off because of the traditional jury system which has small men waiting to be called to a courtroom and then sitting through the long process of selecting jurors for each trial.

Under the new system, a juror is selected from a master list of registered voters by a computer, which mails a personal history questionnaire to determine whether he or she is acceptable.

On the basis of the replies two lists of qualified jurors are drawn up, one group for regular and the other for standby duties. In the latter case the prospective juror would telephone and be told by a recording whether to report for duty on his allotted day.

On their reporting day, the jurors are shown a 16-minute video of the court process and then with the legal process and their role as jurors. They then await assignment.

Those who are selected report to the appropriate courtroom every day until the trial is completed. They then go home. Those who are not accepted are dismissed at the end of the day and then fulfil their jury service for the year.

After six months' experience, the authorities have found from the new system, once the initial expense of setting it up has been covered, actually saves money.

Each trial lasts about three days. The rest of the time is spent waiting around. The waiting to be called to a courtroom and then sitting through the long process of selecting jurors for each trial.

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Arab youths in West Bank demonstration

Tel Aviv, Nov 2.—Dozens of Arab youths demonstrated in Nablus in the West Bank today on the sixtieth anniversary of the Balfour declaration which viewed "with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people".

The youths gathered in schoolyards shouting nationalist slogans and waving Palestinian flags, but their demonstration was generally orderly, except for some stone throwing. There were also some cases of stone throwing in Ramallah.

Chief spurns Vorster summons

Johannesburg, Nov 2.—Chief Goba Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, has turned down an invitation from Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, to attend a meeting tomorrow of leaders of black homelands with his Government.

The meeting is to study modifications to the Pass Law, which restricts the movement of blacks. A spokesman for the chief, a moderate opponent of apartheid, said he refused to have any "cosmetic changes" of this law.

School suicides shock Japanese

Public Welfare show that 46 children between the ages of five and 14 committed suicide in 1965. This figure rose to 90 in 1975, a shock in itself, but the figure at the end of the present year will overshadow anything previously recorded.

In a chilling comment on child suicides, Mr Kiyoko Morita, the respected commentator of *Japan Times*, says: "One of the main sources of the pressures to get good grades or pass the entrance examinations of desirable schools. This is supported by the fact that a relatively large number of child suicides were reported in February and March—the period when entrance examinations are held."

22 drowned in Tanzania

Dar es Salaam, Nov 2.—Twenty-two people are believed drowned after a pontoon ferry capsized in the river Rufiji.

Warm US welcome for Brezhnev nuclear offer

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 2

The American Government gave a warm welcome this morning to President Brezhnev's proposals on a test ban treaty. Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, said that the President's speech was an important step forward towards a full test ban treaty.

Americans shared the Soviet view that there should be a down-turn in the arms race, and he welcomed Mr Brezhnev's call for a moratorium on peaceful nuclear explosions. The proposed moratorium, he said, would run for as long as the test ban treaty, which is being negotiated at Geneva, and the United States favoured a treaty running four or five years.

Mr Vance denied a report in *The New York Times* this morning which said the United States had warned the Soviet Union that if it tried and sentenced dissidents, it would harm the chances of the Salt negotiations. However, the Secretary agreed that Washington had interceded with the Soviet Government on behalf of the dissidents on a number of occasions, and that it had done so recently.

He denied that there was a direct "linkage" between human rights in Russia and Salt. This is the line which has been taken by the Carter Administration from its early days, when it criticized the Soviet Union sharply (together with various other countries) for its people's fundamental rights.

The détente policy, and the Salt treaty, will depend upon public support here, however, and it would not be surprising if American officials had pointed out to the Russians how little sympathy they win when they put dissidents, or Jewish would-be emigrants, on trial.

The Secretary would not give any details of the state of the negotiations (which are, anyway, readily available in this very leaky city) but said that they were proceeding well. He said that the Salt-II agreement would provide for a ban on the development and deployment of new missile systems, and that such a ban would be of great value to the peace of the world.

Mr Vance, who was giving his monthly press conference, was not very forthcoming on the various other matters raised. He said that it was still the American aim to reconvene the Geneva Middle East conference before the end of the year, but refused to guess how near to attainment that objective was.

He repeated that the United States was firmly committed to the security of Israel. Mr Vance again deplored the "regrettable backward step" taken by the South African Government, saying that it had been made clear to Mr Vorster that ministers that relations with South Africa would improve if there were progress towards an end of apartheid, and that progress in the opposite direction would harm relations.

The United States had withdrawn its commercial consulate from Johannesburg and its naval attaché from Pretoria, and expected to vote for the mandatory arms trade ban in the Security Council. It had vetoed the ban on economic sanctions because there was no international consensus on the matter.

Mr Vance was asked about President Carter's proposed trip to nine countries at the end of this month, which has been much criticized. Indeed the President might yet cancel it in order to fight for the Kerry vote here.

The Secretary justified the trip, offering as one reason that the President would be able to emphasize to America's main oil suppliers the need to reduce oil prices. Mr Carter proposed to go to Venezuela, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Iran, among other places.

OVERSEAS

Mr Bhutto accuses United States of plotting his downfall

From Hassan Albhar

Islamabad, Nov 2

Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister at present detained in Lahore jail under martial law, has accused General Zia of overthrowing him last July as part of a plot aided by a "foreign power".

In a signed statement submitted in the Supreme Court as a rejoinder to government charges against him, Mr Bhutto avoided naming the "foreign power". However, elaborate references in his 84-page statement, and his denunciations of Americans when the anti-Bhutto movement was at its peak, leave no doubt that he is accusing the United States of plotting against him with the active support of his Army Chief of Staff who has now become head of the Government.

As an indication of General Zia's involvement in such a conspiracy, Mr Bhutto said the Chief of Staff had given a farewell reception for the retiring army of an unnamed General Zia did in fact arrange a farewell reception last April for Mr Henry Byroade, the American Ambassador.

Bhutto stated: "I was still in Lahore (in April) when the Foreign Office informed me that despite my strict instructions that no senior official or minister could give receptions and banquets without the prior permission of the Foreign Office, the respondent (General Zia) had not bothered about these standing instructions by

Indian press silenced by a power cut

From Richard Wigg

Delhi, Nov 2

On the night that the 1975 emergency was imposed on India it was decided to silence the Delhi newspapers by a total power cut, a commission headed by Mr Justice Shah was told here today.

Mr Kishan Chand, former Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, said the decision was taken in the Prime Minister's office with Mrs Gandhi herself in the chair. He could not remember, however, whether the order given him to stop the presses had come from Mrs Gandhi or from Mr Om Mehra, the deputy Home Minister.

When Mr Justice Shah, who is conducting an inquiry into the emergency, asked why he had agreed to carry out such an arbitrary act, Mr Chand replied that he regarded it as a political decision. He had been told it was done for "security reasons".

The power cuts stopped Delhi morning papers from appearing, thus preventing the news of the mass arrests of opposition politicians reaching the general public. The power cut in the newspaper district remained in force for three days, in order to give the Gandhi Government time to setup full-scale censorship.

Mr Harry D'Penha, the chief censor during the emergency, said he had acted "on superior orders" when he was asked by the judge why court judgments critical of the Government had been forbidden publication.

After some hesitation Mr

Law Report November 2 1977

Woman teacher, 61, entitled to sue

Nothman v Barnett London

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Megaw

A woman teacher, who at 61

had not reached the normal retiring

age for her profession of 65

was not deprived by paragraph

10(b) of Schedule 1 to the Trade

Union and Labour Relations Act,

1974, of her right not to be un-

fairly dismissed. The provision in

the second limb of paragraph

10(b) that a man had to be under

65 and a woman under 60 did not

apply; it should be read as apply-

ing only where there was "no

normal retiring age".

The Lords allowed an appeal

by Miss Nothman, a teacher, from the dismissal

of her by the Employment

Appeal Tribunal. (The Justice

Kilner Brown and Mr J. C. C.

Mullan). (The Times, July 26,

1977) from a London industrial

tribunal which held, on a pre-

sumption that it had no juris-

diction to hear her com-

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Mullan). (The Times, July 26,

term during which he reaches his

sixty-fifth birthday. That was the

same for men and women.

In December, 1976, Miss Noth-

man was dismissed, the ground

given being that she was unable

satisfactorily to carry out her

duties. She claimed that that was

quite unjustified and, anxious to

refute it, she brought a claim for

unfair dismissal.

Before the industrial tribunal

the preliminary point taken

was that she was unable to bring

a claim even if her dismissal

had been unfair because she was

a woman over 60. It had been

a man, it would have been

dismissed.

Both the industrial tribunal and

the Employment Appeal Tribunal

decided against Miss Nothman.

Though they realized it was very

unfair, they thought that there

was nothing they could do.

The right not to be unfairly

dismissed was subject to the two

exceptions in paragraph 10. The

second, in subparagraph (b),

seemed to be exclusively worded.

The first question was the

meaning of "normal retiring

age". It seemed to his Lordship

that it was a profession or occu-

pation in which a person should or

must retire at a certain age that

was the "normal retiring age".

A teacher had a contractual retiring

age of 65.

The Appeal Tribunal said that

paragraph 10(b) contained a

double barrier: not only must the

applicant not have reached the

normal retiring age but also she

must not be over 60.

Read that way the Appeal Tri-

bunal said that the case pro-

vided as glaring an example of

discrimination against a woman on

the ground of her sex as there

could possibly be; and that the

facts pointed to a glaring anomaly.

Yet the tribunal thought their

hands were tied by the statute.

His Lordship wished to repudiate

that. It was the voice of the

past, of the strict construction-

alist who went by the letter and

disregarded the spirit. It had been

replaced by a new approach.

Whenever the strict interpreta-

tion of a statute gave rise to an

absurd and unjust situation, the

judges could and should use their

good sense to remedy it by read-

ing words in it necessary so as to

do what Parliament would

have done had they had the situa-

tion in mind. Such an interpreta-

tion should be adopted as would

promote the general purposes

underlying the statutory provi-

sions.

In such a case a sensible

interpretation could be put on the

statute. The side-heading to

paragraph 10(b) was "upper

age limit", which pointed to one

limit. The provision could be

interpreted sensibly, intelligently

and justly by inserting the words

"where there is no normal retiring

age" before the second part.

Miss Nothman had not reached

the normal retiring age for her

employment and therefore she was

entitled to make a claim for unfair

dismissal. His Lordship would

allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said

that the word "retiring" in the

phrase "normal retiring age" had

no general meaning, giving the

sense of "must" or "should".

It followed that the "normal

retiring age" of a teacher was the

age at which teachers would have

to retire unless there was an ex-

tension by mutual agreement. That

age was 65.

It seemed to his Lordship that

there were two ways of assessing

the upper age limit for complaints

of unfair dismissal: the normal

retiring age or, if there was no

normal retiring age, one looked

at the pensionable age, which was

80 for a woman and 65 for a man.

His Lordship had come to the con-

clusion that it was one of the

circumstances set out in

paragraph 10(b) that had to be

Lloyds and Scottish Finance Ltd

v Prentice and Others

Even if transactions under a

"block discounting" agreement

had been carried out by the parties

involving substantial departures

from that prescribed by the agree-

ment, the agreement had re-

mained in effect throughout as

defining the contractual relations

between the parties, and accord-

ingly the transactions had been

absolute assignments of book

debts as provided by the agree-

ment and not mere charges on

book debts so as to be void in a

liquidation as being unregistered.

The Court of Appeal allowed

an appeal by the plaintiff finance

house, Lloyds and Scottish

Finance Ltd from a decision of

Mr Justice Megaw in February,

1976, in favour of the defendants,

Cyril Lord Carpenters Sales Ltd (in

liquidation) and its liquidators.

LORD JUSTICE MEGAW, sit-

ting with Lord Justice Lawton and

Sir David Cairns, said, in a judg-

ment of the court, that by section

93 of the Northern Ireland Com-

panies Act, 1960 (section 95 of

the English Companies Act, 1948)

a charge on book debts of a com-

pany was void against the liqui-

dator of the company on a liqui-

dation unless it had been regis-

tered in accordance with the

section. The assignments in the

present case, of credit sale agree-

ments between Cyril Lord, who had

carried on business in Northern

Ireland in the manufacture and

sale of carpets, and their cus-

tomers, had not been regis-

tered. The question was, there-

fore, whether they had been

absolute assignments of the debts,

which would be void against the li-

quidator, or charges on them.

There was no doubt that the

block discounting agreement,

which provided for Lloyds to make

advances to Cyril Lord in respect

of blocks of credit sale agree-

ments, had been for the absolute

assignment of the customers' debts

to Lloyds. The liquidators con-

tended that in the transactions

carried out pursuant to the agree-

ment there had been such substan-

tial departures by the parties from

its terms that the true nature of

the transactions had been to

create charges on book debts and

not their absolute assignment.

In particular the agreement had

provided for 80 per cent of the

value of the blocks of debts

assigned to Lloyds, less a per-

centage for interest, to be paid

to Cyril Lord at the times of the

assignments, and a further 20 per

cent, less any collection charges,

to be paid to Cyril Lord when all

the moneys due from the cus-

tomers had been paid to Lloyds.

In practice, however, provided

8
OVER

Football

Ipswich gain notable win as four go out

Three British clubs retain any interest in the third round of the European club competitions. Liverpool and Aston Villa, as expected, survived the most notable achievement belonged to Ipswich Town, who drew 2-2 in the Canary Islands against Las Palmas to win 4-3 on aggregate. Four others—Manchester United, Celtic, Newcastle United and Glasgow—were eliminated.

Celtic, who drew 1-1 in the first leg, were eliminated in the second round. They were beaten 2-0 by the hosts, who won 3-0 on aggregate. Celtic, who were beaten 2-0 by the hosts, who won 3-0 on aggregate. Celtic, who were beaten 2-0 by the hosts, who won 3-0 on aggregate.

Widzew Poznan, who were beaten 2-0 by the hosts, who won 3-0 on aggregate. Widzew Poznan, who were beaten 2-0 by the hosts, who won 3-0 on aggregate. Widzew Poznan, who were beaten 2-0 by the hosts, who won 3-0 on aggregate.

Although Kevin Keegan scored for SV Hamburg in their Cup Winners' Cup match, they were not enough to put the West German side into the next round. The match was drawn 1-1, and Keegan scored the only goal.

League clubs can change kick-off times

League clubs are being allowed to bring forward kick-off times because of the power cuts. "We have not written to clubs but we expect them to be fully aware of the situation in their area."

Any club that asks for an early kick-off will be allowed to have one, a league spokesman said. Several clubs have already changed to a 2.30 start and the League expect many more requests before the weekend.

Leeds United were the first team in the first division to change their game at home to Norwich City, who start at home earlier, at 2.0.

Cruel reward for United's courage

By Norman Fox, Football Correspondent

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Murcia (left) nudges the ball into his own net for United's second goal.

Porto's occasional breakaways

were dangerous, but on the half

hour, a touch of brilliance from

Santos made United a body blow.

Santos' unexpected clearance

from Alston sent the ball into

the net. United's second goal

was scored by Santos, who

scored twice in the first half.

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Santos, who scored twice in

switched from 4-3-3 to a new

4-4-2 formation, substituting

Cowan for Deane.

Within seven minutes, it brought

the important equaliser. Cleverly,

who has earned himself considerable

criticism at Villa Park lately

for doing little more than running

around the pitch, scored the

goal. He was assisted by

Gray, who scored the second

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Liverpool win the tie, but make few friends

From John Hennessey, Dresden, Nov. 2

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Senais



the Rex Bellamy was Correspondent in Springs, Nov 2 Christine Evert, the champion of the United States, who came as favourite, was beaten in light sets in the first match of the series at Wimbledon, sponsored by Colgate. We should expect something like that, made as much sense as its conditions, and the fact that the 13 players are contesting 18 matches in six days for 3,000 (the richest woman's prize has been) during a dull of tennis, in a hot sun in the middle of a desert. Their endeavours are being noted for posterity by 150 writers who have converged on Melbourne. Miss Courtman from such unlikely places as Sydney, Buenos Aires and Adelaide. To accommodate the players, the organisers have had the equivalent of a tennis us—lavishly appointed—and a beach, boulder-strewn and, they are going to much trouble expense to buy publicity and the stars. The first was the money on the first day, the hardy players, the expense of desert and mountains is not the most obvious of a reasonable thousands of tennis, though, was attracted to the singles event is being played. Miss Evert still has a chance to win. But, obviously, it is no longer as good. This was her first match, and she was physically and mentally in need of a toughening exposure to severe match play. She played well, but particularly vulnerable on the big points.

By contrast, the left-handed Miss Frohnholtz, has during the last match, which was after a disappointing year—and she came here supremely fit after rigorous training. Miss Frohnholtz was the only player to have used the angles and she succeeded. She repeatedly caught Miss Evert napping with short but kept low and explored the lateral line.

Without compromising her attacking nature, the Australian started her pace effectively. Her opponent was not so facile. There was only one service break. But Miss Evert had her chance. In the first set she had to break back, but she was down to one in the sudden death tie-break (an abandonment that should have been buried long ago). In the second set she had a break point for 3-4.

Virginia Wade, the Wimbledon champion, who was beaten 7-6, 3-6. Big and shrewd, somewhat worried about a troublesome shoulder, Miss Navratilova showed much powerful, restful, and a little bit of a shock. Miss Wade, struggling to find her form after a three-week rest, reacted 2-5 on her fourth set, but she was not to be denied. She won 11 points out of 12 (including the tie-break) and eight games out of nine.

Her equipment and her game were admirably authoritative and solid in the crisis, whereas Miss Navratilova, who was a little bit of a indulgent, became uncertain and wary. At the end Miss Navratilova cast her shoulders aside, won the decisive points and saved for match point. But a final argument was over. Ricky Ponting, Miss Wade finished the match with a flurry of winning shots.

Finally, Wendy Turnbull beat Betty Stove, 7-6, 6-4, in a match between players who unexpectedly were not so good as the likes of Ellis and Wimbledon. The pattern was what we expected. Miss Stove played both better and worse than she was, far more consistent, Australian.

[illegible]

Demo, Nov. 2.—The president of Mosport motor racing circuit, of last month's Canadian Prixé, has dispensed charges by James Hunt, the British driver, for precautions at track were inadequate.

The writing on the British side *Autospot*, said accidents are drivers ran Ashley and Mass during practice high speed of the deplorable nature in which the race was run. Charges included: that only required 200 marshals present; few seemed aware of blue flag caution procedure; the crash wagon with cut equipment was not available; there was no rescue heli-
copter; wooden guard rails posts rotten and gave way when hit them; and Ashley was trapped for 45 minutes as marshals had no equip-ment to cut him free. Hunt wrote: "I wish I saw you have a properly equipped fire fighting cir-cle because we have known about it for years."

In closing some of the atten-tion from the Mosport president, Mr. Hudez said he would bring the circuit checked by the chief inspector but all the test safety improvements made and the best being done for its efforts. Mr. said the improvements were following up this season by a letter giving Mosport safety certification for three years.

He conceded that only 96 marshals were present for the Friday practice but they were since all were volunteers; many were not available until Saturday. He said only a few marshals were supposed to be able to use the tools and procedures because was a dangerous task and there were only a few places at trackside where it could be used to warn drivers they were being over-taken.

Mr. Hudes said a crash wagon with the latest equipment was en route to Mosport from Indiana-polis but was delayed by a high-way accident and did not arrive until Sunday. Other cutting equipment was at the track and was used.

A helicopter ambulance, which he said was not required for grand prix races, was brought in within 24 hours. But it had to wait because doctors did not want to risk further injury to Ashley by removing him from the wreckage too quickly.

The guard rails and posts were inspected this year, Mr. Hudes said, and he was assured they were right for the job. The posts were replaced after the crash so that the rails could bend and absorb the crash impact.—Reuter.

The four-board Australian chal-lenger is headed by Tom Supple-man, who owns the Hobart Yacht Harcourte with Charles Davies at the helm. France's entry is the former New Zealand champion boat, Country Boy, captained by a Tahitian crew and skippered by Michel Alouy. The five-race series finishes on November 5.—Agence France-Presse.

Athletics Scholarships for Little Boys and Miss White

Peter Little, of Cragmount High School, Edinburgh, and Josephine White, from Banstead, Surrey, both 16, have been chosen for the athletics scholarships. They will each receive £500 annually under the terms of the scholarship scheme introduced in 1981.

The scholarships, sponsored by

NEW YORK: National League. New York Yankees 1. Atlanta Braves 2. St. Louis Blues 3. Los Angeles Kings 2. World Association: Houston Astros 2. Indianapolis 1. Kansas City 1. New England Patriots 1. Quebec Nordiques 3.

By Michael Phillips

With only two days to go to the end of the flat racing season M. L. Thomas needs to ride four winners to be crowned champion jockey a hundred in a season for the first time in his career which spans 16 years. Winners are not easy to come by at this stage of the season but Thomas is not without a chance of reaching this milestone.

Looking forward to a good ride in the William Hill November Handicap at Doncaster on Saturday on Rail, the 11-year-old gelding trained by ally for the race since he ran Lochranza to half a length in the Aske Handicap at York on Saturday, Thomas has been the first race for four months and his trainer, William Hastings-Bass, has every reason to be pleased with his performance.

At Epsom Park today Thomas should go near to winning at odds of 10/1 in the 12.40 (3.0) and Badajo (4.0) and possibly a third on Man Alive, a 10-year-old gelding, in the 1.40 market last Saturday and at San

Tamalin will run in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury on November 26. The decision was made by the fact that the gelding was making by five lengths in the featured Duntroon Handicap Steeplechase at Cardinale yesterday.

His last start was in the second display in 1976 was in the Hennessy Gold Cup when second to Zeta's Son by one and a half lengths in 12:70 with David Goulding riding patiently.

Greggory cut out much of the early running and Gould's horse was in the lead with four fences still to jump. It was not until approaching the last two fences that Tamalin came clear.

John Maclean, a former jockey, says Tamalin, said: "Tamalin is definitely going in the Hennessy Gold Cup. He is one of the two best bookmakers, William Hill and Ladbrokes, was to quote Tamalin for 33-1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Saturday.

At 20-1 with Ladbrokes and 16-1 with Hill for the Grand National, the race was not worth 20-1.

Maclean's penalty for the Hennessy Gold Cup and is set to carry a high less than last year. Jockey Fred Winter, who won the Grand National, landed a 33-1 treble with The Last Light (6-1), Holly Whist (4-1) and Arctic Mist (7-1).

Maclean says he will sound out the bookies to win the first jockey's championship.

John Dixon, a local permit jockey, says that four horses in his yard, his started the season in great style, his first two runners were The Last Light and Holly Whist, and he is looking for a big jump from Arctic Challenge in the Duntroon Handicap Steeplechase.

He said a stonewall gelding was the best he had ever seen.

[illegible][illegible]

The first four home in last year's Fighting Fifth Hurdle are among the 36 first acceptors for this season's race at Newcastle on November 19. The four: Birds Nest, Night Nurse, Flying Diplomat and Paemako Prince, is joined by Comedy of Errors, who won the race in 1973, 1974 and 1975.

13 1.16) **HARRY HURDLE** (Div
1) Novices: \$306; 2m 330yd)
Jockey: Dean,
—Romanz
P. A. Canning (14-1) 1
R. Barry (18-7) 2
H. Moss, S-10-11
Cham, A. Harrison (7-2) 3
SALAN, J. Quinn (12-1)
Honolulu, Hollins, Taka, Alm.
Angus Brother (1st), 20-1 Kinnemol.
1. Sandman, 53-1
Reaghtown, Hill.
Fenads (D.), Whistling Screele. 13

NOTE: Wtn. 95p; places. 27d. 1p.
2nd; dist. foreign. 31.37. K. Moss,
Perith. 11.41

After a strenuous enquiry and an
interview with witnesses by the second
court result remained unaltered. Ace
was not retained.

STATE OF GOING (official): Tons-
side Park: good to firm. Uttoxeter:
good to firm. -narrow: Cheltenham:
good. Doncaster: good to firm.

For the first time, Sea Count went out. He maintained his advantage until approaching the last fence, where he was overtaken by the clear. Home-bred by Dixon, the last light now goes for a three-year-old stepchild at Wetherby of £100.

Holly Twist, strongly backed at 8-1 in 4-1 favourite, cruised to the lead, but a last fence was a MCNab in the Derwent Water and he was overtaken by a young Hurdle in his first run in two years. As the field settled, the favourite was overtaken by a pair of Hights from home, John MCNab and Fox out, closely pressed by Holly Twist.

John MCNab was caught going to the hurdle where Holly Twist quickly went clear. Dixon said: "I bought Holly Twist for £100 and he has cost me £1,000." He was injured by a fall and broken a leg in time to come back to his best.

After a short training by Peter Searby, best Fair View by two lengths in the Curlew Novices Steeplechase. O'Neill and a contingent of the best of the Arctic Slave. He led after two fences and never looked like being caught.

At the end of the race, the trainer near the course, is on holiday in the Netherlands and missed saddling Roman Dean to win the first division of the Curlew Steeplechase. Roman Dean scrambled to a length from the favourite, Kellie Bell.

After the race, after the race was announced that there was an objection by Ron Barry the owner of the Curlew Steeplechase. Proper riding during the course of the race" by the winning jockey, John Charlton. After a lengthy delay the stewards overruled the objection.

30 STAINBY BECK STAKES (2-y-o fillies: £717: 5f)			
000000	Halima (D)	1-1	Manbury
000000	Gold Mountain	2-1	Skilting
000000	Mermaid	3-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	4-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	5-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	6-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	7-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	8-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	9-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	10-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	11-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	12-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	13-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	14-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	15-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	16-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	17-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	18-1	St. Lawrence
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000000	Mermaid	31-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	32-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	33-1	St. Lawrence
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000000	Mermaid	46-1	St. Lawrence
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000000	Mermaid	82-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	83-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	84-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	85-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	86-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	87-1	St. Lawrence
000000	Mermaid	88-1	St. Lawrence

230200	Shihara	M.	South	1-10	Th	12
230201	Shihara	M.	South	1-10	Th	12
230202	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230203	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230204	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230205	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230206	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230207	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230208	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230209	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230210	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230211	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230212	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230213	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230214	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230215	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230216	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230217	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230218	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230219	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230220	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230221	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230222	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230223	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230224	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230225	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230226	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230227	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230228	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230229	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230230	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230231	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230232	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230233	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230234	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230235	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230236	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230237	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230238	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230239	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230240	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230241	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230242	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230243	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230244	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230245	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230246	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230247	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230248	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230249	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230250	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230251	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230252	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230253	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230254	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230255	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230256	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230257	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230258	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230259	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230260	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230261	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230262	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230263	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230264	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230265	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230266	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	
230267	Man Aya	Camacho	8-8	Th	12	

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

0-0	E. Miller	13
8-10	M. L. Thomas	12
0-0	Charnock 3	10
0-0	Steadie	10
0-0	Wharton 3	10
0-0	W. C. Thomas	10
0-0	C. Nutter	10
0-0	A. Kimberley	10
0-0	R. Little	10
0-0	Stewart	10
0-0	Levan	10
0-0	J. Edwards	10
0-0	Wigham 3	10
0-0	W. Foster	10
0-0	N. Darley	10
0-0	1 Tall Lad, 5-11	10
0-0	Roll Me Over,	10
0-0	Mr.	10
0-0	8-95: (6)	10
0-11	M. Wood 7	23
0-11	G. Starkey	23
0-11	E. Apor	23
0-11	A. Kimberley	23
0-11	J. Haynes 7	23

v 1: 4-yo: £444: 2m 1f)
 S. Smith Eccles
 10-10 C. Tucker
 M. Dickinson
 10-10 Mr J. Cambridge 7
 W. 7
 R. Wilding 5
 D. Cartwright
 10-10 Mr C. Comdel 5
 10-10 R. Knight
 R. Kingston
 10-10 R. Davies
 10-10 S. McInlay 7
 10-10 S. Smith
 10-10 D. Sunderland
 10-10 Toppas, 10-1 Gilsando,
 10-1 others.

PHASE (Novices: £545: 21m)
 1-8 J. J. O'Neill
 1-8 J. Webster
 10-12 S. Smith Eccles
 10-12 D. Cartwright
 5-10-12 P. J. Kelly 3

5-10-13	G. Graham 5
4-10-12	P. Leach
3-10-12	5-1 Lucius 9-1 Charlie Croft,
B. 20-1 others	
Handicap : £799 : 2m 1f)	
4-12-13	P. Leach
4-12-12	A. Hyett
4-12-11	G. Thorne
4-11	Barry 5
1-10-11	M. Charles 5
1-10-10	H. Evans
1-10-9	R. King 5
3-5	G. Holmes
1-10-10	M. R. Jones 5
1-10-9	K. Moore 5
1-10-8	C. Ashurst
1-10-7	F. Wicks 5
8-10-0	P. Tuck 7
5-10-0	Mt. C. Price 7
5-10-0	G. Hall
5-10-0	A. Hazen 7
5-10-0	Mr. C. Cunniff 5
5-10-0	W. Davies 7
5-10-0	R. F. Davies
5-10-0	Winifred Boy, 5-1 Sirrah, 10-1
5-10-0	Andy Boy, 10-1 others

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

#45 AUDLEEN STEEPLECHASE (Handicap; £710 : 21m)

8-6 Ireland's Owen (-9), J. Edwards, 8-12-4 P. Blackmore
10123-9 Coton Colton (-10) B. Barry, 8-12-4
Cotton Colton (-10), Brookshaw, 7-10-13 R. Taylor
10100-0 Bold Warrior, J. Barry, 6-10-12 S. Brown
~~COTTON COLTON~~ M. Dickinson
8-2-22-22 Ben Pliggins (D), L. Harvitt, 7-10-5 B. Harrison
8-2-22-22 Ben Pliggins (D), L. Harvitt, 7-10-5 B. Harrison

8-1 Ireland's Owen, -1 Mr Popple, 1-1 Self Winner, 6-1 Coffee Bean, 8-1
Self Winner, Money Payson, 10-1 Co-Partner, 1-1 Cotton Cow.

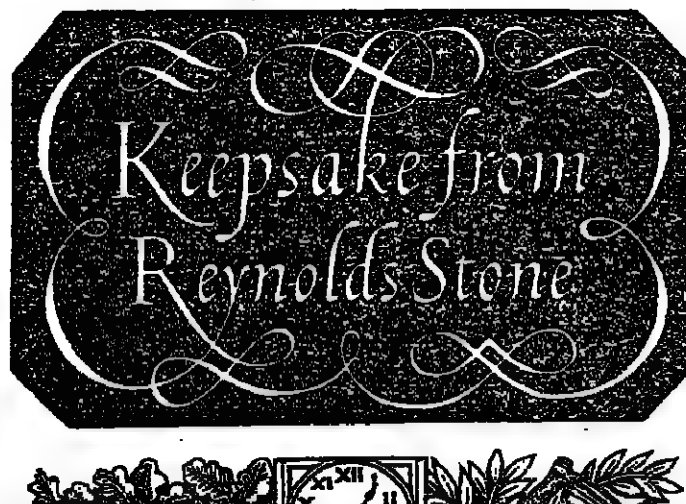
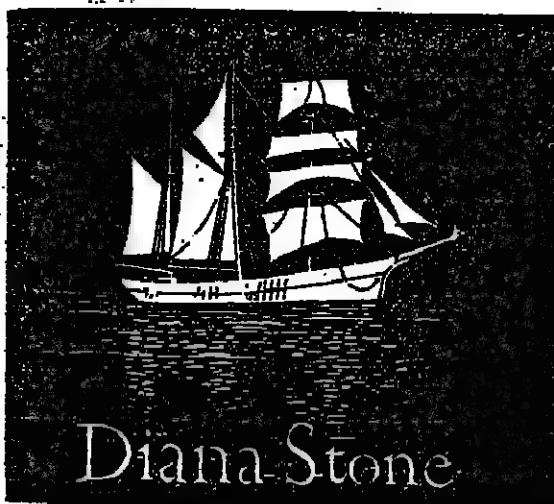
#15 MARKET DRAYTON STEEPLECHASE (Handicap; £645 :
31m)
8-6 Cornmarke, C. Dingwall, 7-12-0 H. J. Evans
4-4-023 Willow House, Mrs A. Fluch, 10-11-10 G. Morrison
8-10-10 Farsell, Averis, 9-11-8 P. Kelleher
8-03-0 Farsell, Aveuma, Chapman,
1222 Monarise, R. Bracey, 9-11-7 N. Davies
8-04-02 Cherry Lad, St. Edward, 10-11-10 T. Taylor
Sunny Chief, B. Camidge, 9-10-9 G. Jones
Monaster Lawyer, 10-1 Cornmarker, 10-1 Force,
Sunny Chief, 1-1 Cherry Lad, 6-1

#45 HARTINGTON HUDDLE (Div W Class previous; £AAA:

32-222	Frankly Yes, P. Brown, 10-10	N. Gray
2-0	Orange Glen, 10-10	Leach
0-0-0	Hallak, D. R. Jones, 10-10	D. Cartright
	Memnon, D. Richards, 10-10	D. Graves
	Ottoway, B. Cambridge, 10-10	S. Howell S.
0004-00	Orange Glen, D. Stuart, 10-10	Cambridge
	Paddy's Lane, W. Whiston, 10-10	P. Barry G.
	Panich, D. Barlow, 10-10	M. Barlow
4-00	Part Last, Mrs. J. Evans, 10-10	S. Holland
Op	Part Last, Mrs. J. Evans, 10-10	J. Evans
	Southern Plains, W. Jenkins, 10-10	R. F. Jenkins
	4-5 Amazon River, 2-2 Orange Glen, 6-1 Go Brookshire, 8-1 Hallak, 10-10	
	Frankly Yes, 13-1 Ottoway, 20-1 others.	

[illegible]

NEW BOOKS/TWO



A Reynolds Stone frieze, showing the scope of his work. Above left: Royal Arms for the Coronation service of George VI. Compare the present royal arms (also a Stone design) on our Court Page, first used on April 23, 1953. Above right: Book label for his sister. Right: Device for the publisher Robert Hart-Davis, used until recently by the Hart-Davis MacGibbon imprint of Granada Publishing. Far right, top: a typical example of Stone's work, often to be seen in letter-headings. Far right, lower: compare this clock device used on the Leader Page of The Times between 1949 and 1966 with the present version of the clock numerals and scythe handles.

Murder as social history

Victorian Murderesses
By Mary S. Hartman
(Robson Books, £5.25)

The more notorious of Victorian femmes fatales have a peculiar fascination for the connoisseurs of murder, perhaps because of the intriguing contrast between the respectable secret lives of their cluttered and claustrophobic sitting rooms and the fierce exposure of the dock. But the factor of Mrs Hartman's book, a lurid Victorian pastiche, is misleading. This is no mere recital of old and familiar horrors but a well-written, carefully researched and penetrating study of 13 of the most infamous of nineteenth-century criminal women, British and French, seen against the legal, social and domestic constraints which drove them to the desperate expedient of murder.

Mrs Hartman is Director of Women's Studies at Rutgers University in the United States and she perceives her subjects—they are hardly heroines—in the light of her own academic preoccupations. But this is no women's lib defence of murder. Mrs Hartman neither romanticises murder nor presents the women as the stereotyped victims of male oppression. In more senses than one they had their weapons and knew how to use them. Given the socially prescribed and idealized code of Victorian womanhood each sex was the victim of the other. The women may, indeed, have been said to have got off lightly. The guilt of some is seriously in question. Yet only six were convicted; five were freed before their full prison sentences were served; and none suffered the death penalty. Mrs Hartman's account of the motives for their crimes, the stratagems they employed and the public response to their trials provides a fascinating combination of real-life murder, psychological detection and social history and new and original insights into the minds of the most celebrated murderesses of the nineteenth century.

It is both interesting and ironic that they killed not because they rejected the repressive sexual and social mores of the age but because they accepted them. They were conformists, not rebels. They shot, poisoned and stabbed, not in the cause of liberty, feminine emancipation or self-fulfilment, but of respectability. Madame Smith may have had the audacity to indulge her sexual needs in an age when even to acknowledge female sexuality, at least in an unmarried girl, was a heresy against the purity of womanhood, but she took good care

to enjoy herself in secret—reputation depended on a break with her old lover, Dr Gully, and the acquisition of a suitable husband. When faced with the prospect of a life-time of his less than agreeable company and the certainty of annual and painful miscarriages she could see only one way out of her predicament. For a desperate and ruthless woman, murder was only one of the nineteenth-century equivalent of the contraceptive pill, the abortionist or the divorce court. These 13 women were bunglers. There must have been many others who managed more efficiently.

All the women were accomplished liars. The adjective is appropriate since, given their circumstances, deceit was a necessary survival technique. What is surprising is the credulity of their male judges and juries, only explainable, perhaps by Mrs Hartman's theory that the new institutionalizing of separate sexual spheres helped to make the female world a mysterious and alien place for the men who visited there. The respectable middle class women who flocked to notorious murder trials in numbers which the press openly deplored—the potent mixture of murder and adultery was a particular public attraction—must have watched

the gullibility of the men with fascinated incredulity. It is possible that the accused themselves believed their own lies. They may have been amateurs at murder but they were highly adept in the feminine art of romantic fabrication. It is fashionable to indulge our self-righteous horror at the sexual and domestic hypocrisies of the Victorians. One suspects that our own hypocrisies, being on a meaner scale and unredeemed by their energy, optimism and creativity, provoke a certain envy. The proportion of happy marriages and loving parents is probably much the same in any age, and, whatever the currently fashionable tenets of sexual morality, men and women continue to suit themselves in this most private of relationships. Happiness, after all, is less well documented than misery. But, undoubtedly, Victorian women particularly those of the emerging middle class, were subjected to frustrations, boredom, tensions in domestic relationships, and the pressures of social change which, for some of the more vulnerable, proved intolerable. It was the tragedy of these thirteen women—and even more the tragedy of their victims—that the way out for them was so desperate, bloody and ultimately self-defeating.

Charles Bravo, too, was murdered because of the imperatives of bourgeois social respectability. Florence Bravo had accepted him because, her

P. D. James

Scenes from a Clerical Life: an autobiography by Alec Vidler (Collins, £4.50)

Although Alec Vidler is undeniably one of the most admirable and well-known C of E clergymen of our century, his autobiography might have been more correctly entitled "Scenes from a Clerical Life". Admittedly, he spent his first decade as a person in a Tyneside slum and a Birmingham artisan parish, in that far-off heyday of the Anglo-Catholic Movement, when young Oxbridge priests adorned mean streets in cassock and biretta, and did wonderful work. But from the start Alec Vidler refused the isolation of what is usually "clerical life". He sought a community of like-minded artists with whom to share a rule of dedicated discipline, and found it in the Oratory of the Good Shepherd at Cambridge, whose Warden was Wilfred Knox. Henceforward the priest of Vidler's life, wherever it took him, was in a community, more than of a "religious" than of a parochial cleric. For that reason, his special gifts of mind and spiritual wisdom were able to be used to the full, at the centre of the theological eddies and currents of thought which have carried the Church's intellectual life to and fro throughout the war years and the succeeding decades.

Good shepherd

Scenes from a Clerical Life: an autobiography by Alec Vidler (Collins, £4.50)

His lot was to be in pleasant places, as Warden of St Delon's Library at Hawarden, then Canon of St George's, Windsor, and lastly Dean of King's, Cambridge. From these bases he practised (in his own metaphor) "theological midwifery", ie, assisted in the bringing into existence groups of thinkers and creative people, and in the promulgation of their ideas in books and papers while he himself also put out books of his own which won wide interest. He was, in fact, during those critical years, a man especially needed, and his influence as convener, catalyst, writer and lecturer within that province of Christian thinking was prodigious. For 27 years he edited *Theology* and played a considerable part in the work of *The Christian News-Letter* and its successor *Frontier*.

What sort of man is he? He lives in Rye in retirement in the house where he was born, a few miles from (in life-long friends, Malcolm and Kitty Muggersidge. He is also a "wry" man, as every page of this book reveals. In his youth he was chided for a manner of "portentous solemnity" which he hopes he lost. Above all, a man of God with a great gift for making many friends, and few, if any, enemies.

Joseph McCulloch

Reviews next week include Michael Ratcliffe on Angus Wilson's *The Strange Ride of Rudyard Kipling*; Paul Barker on the Crossman diaries; Humphrey Berkeley on A Prime Minister on Prime Ministers by Harold Wilson; R. R. F. Keating on Agatha Christie's autobiography.

Her own woman

The Passionate Shepherdess:
Aphra Behn, 1640-1689
By Maureen Duffy
(Cape, £7.50)

A Victorian historian once accused the biographer of a Saxon saint of telling his readers "all, and rather more than all, that is known" about his subject. The thought must have occurred to Maureen Duffy, working on the biography of Mrs Aphra Behn, the seventeenth-century author—the first professional woman writer in this country—a fairly full account of the known facts about whom could sit happily on one side of a postcard.

Searching (and her tone occasionally seems to betray a certain amount of desperation) for straw with which to run up a few more bricks than those used by earlier biographers such as George Woodcock, Ms Duffy has done rather splendidly well, partly by sheer hard work in searching, and partly by the intelligence of her inferences. She deals, for instance, very fully with all the possibilities of Mrs Behn's birth, and with the problem of the identity of Mr Behn (who, she concludes, may or may not have been a certain Richard Behn of Popinsey Alley, St Bride's, who fills the bill well enough). For the rest of her subject's life—her unromantic, unrewarding career as one of Charles II's spies in the Netherlands, and then her long literary career—what facts are available are filled out by fair guesswork supported by "evidence" from the plays and poems.

When one has to speak of "inference" and "guesswork" it is difficult not to give the impression of disapproval. In fact, the author steps over the tacky and uncertain ground with great confidence, inspiring confidence in the reader. She has uncovered a remarkable amount of information about the man and woman who surrounded Mrs Behn—John Hoyle, for instance, the "atheist, sodomite, professed, corrupter of youth and blasphemer of Christ" (the words are Bulstrode Whitelock's).

Derek Parker

with whom she fell so passionately in love, and whose steadily increased homosexuality racked her; Thomas Betterton, Gilbert Burnet, the Earl of Rochester... She is especially good on Dryden and his piece in the history of drama vis-à-vis Mrs Behn's own.

In the end, one has to conclude that there is simply insufficient detail in the portrait to make this a full "physical" biography. But in Aphra Behn's writing is plenty of slanting evidence of character, and here Ms Duffy is at her best, giving a vivid sketch of this astonishingly self-sufficient author, so spectacularly her own woman, wonderfully dismissive of the taboos of her time. (She was a forthright Tory, incidentally, like almost all seventeenth-century women writers. Where were the Puritan and Whig women?)

Mrs Behn wrote of sex with such vigour that she was thoroughly condemned for it even in Restoration England ("from a woman it was unnatural"), and her plays sank from sight for two centuries. She disapproved of slavery (having glimpsed it in Surinam, the island in Dutch Guiana ceded to the Netherlands in 1667, not long after her visit there), and in *Oroonoko* wrote not only one of the first admirable novels in English literature, but one of the first anti-slavery tracts.

Her writing is what makes it important that Aphra Behn should be remembered, and it is as a celebration of that writing that the present book must be most enthusiastically welcomed. Whether or not *Oroonoko* is "a masterpiece" (as Ms Duffy believes) it is surprising that it is not in print. Of her plays only *The Rover* is available (what William Mountford played him, Queen Mary remarked that it was dangerous to see him, he made vice so alluring). *The Lucky Chance* is at least as good, and one of our national companies could do far worse than look in Mrs Behn's direction.

Derek Parker

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Reclassifications for trend setters

The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought
Edited by Alan Bullock and
Olivier Stallybrass
(Fontana, £2.95; Collins, £7.95)

This, I should say, is a very smart piece of publishing business. Which of us, while browsing through, say, *The Times Literary Supplement*, has not been struck by a long, difficult, slightly familiar, plainly modern word, with strong academic overtones and bluffs of a newish "discipline", but of whose meaning we are not precisely sure, or rather—to be frank—are totally ignorant?

This was what happened to Lord Bullock—rather a trendy word himself, come to think of it—when he was on holiday, and baffled by "hermeneutics". He thereupon got the idea, "more or less fully formed", he says, for this dictionary of modern thought, "preferably compendious enough to take with one even on holiday". Obviously the right publishers to go to were Collins-Fontana: for the Fontana Modern Masters series, slim, cheap, brilliantly conceived and edited, bright and up to date as yesterday's colour supplement, has already enabled hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of fairly educated and moderately intelligent people to profess an easy familiarity with such key modern opinion-shifters as Chomsky, Levi-Strauss, Lukacs, Laing, Marcuse, Reich and so forth.

The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought can be seen as a complement to the biographical series. It deals, as a rule very briefly, with such words

and concepts as binary system, extrapolation, deep structure, historicism, monads, continuum, entropy and enzymes. If you know exactly what these eight terms, taken at random, mean, then you have no need of this book. If, on the other hand, you feel you ought to know and don't, then a modest investment may be called for. One must not expect too much. The dictionary does not so much increase knowledge as protect people from the social consequences of their ignorance (though it has the greatest merit of including brief bibliographies for more important items). In the attempt to cram an enormous amount into less than 700 pages, it sometimes slips into a statement of the obvious; or, alternatively, unintentionally academic jargon. My eye, for instance, fell on "grammar". Not, some might imagine, a term necessarily associated with "modern thought", but what I am trying to say is that it is part of the very fashionable subject of linguistics. So here we have Professor David Crystal, Professor of Linguistics Science, University of Reading, informing us that grammar is "A central concept in contemporary LINGUISTICS, traditionally referring to an independent LEVEL of linguistic organization in which words, or their component parts (MORPHEMES), are brought together in the formation of sentences or DISCOURSES. (See MORPHOLOGY: SYNTAX). ... See also CASE GRAMMAR; SCALE-AND-CATEGORY GRAMMAR; SYSTEMIC GRAMMAR; TAGMATIC GRAMMAR; TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR."

As—so that's what grammar is, is it? And how this old gentleman of Moore's would have been surprised to dis-

cover that he spoke discourses instead of sentences! The use of capitals, by the way, means that these words also have an entry; and I should add that I followed this discussion of grammar and related concepts through the dictionary without becoming very much wiser or clearer, or even convinced that grammar as defined by "modern thought" is a signifi-

cantly different or more useful term than the ordinary grammar developed to help people to write English. However, Professor Crystal at least puts me on to F. R. Palmer's *Grammar* (Penguin, 1971), which may do the trick if I ever get round to it.

Much the same criticism might apply to geography, another old-fashioned subject which now drops up in very trendy academic garments, especially since it was taken up by the environmentalists, ecologists and other pseudo-scientific trend setters. It makes great play with such terms as URBANISATION, GEOGRAPHICAL DETERMINISM, CENTRAL PLACES, DIFFUSION, GEOGRAPHY, and the use of mathematical MODELS. We are told by Jean Guzmán, Professor of Geography at Oxford, that "The role of psychological factors has been enhanced by growing interest in the decision making for location and environmental management" (a new field called perception geography is being developed).

Again, in the field of history, we learn about such new branches as ETHNOHISTORY, ICONOGRAPHY, PSYCHOHISTORY and the invention of old Namer's, today more fashionable than ever, called PRO-

SOPOGRAPHY, here defined as "the study of collective biography, usually but not necessarily the biography of ELITES such as peers or Members of Parliament. Prosopography is one of the most important types of QUANTITATIVE HISTORY..."

I have quoted enough to give the reader some indication of what kind of book this is. It might be described as a necessary or even inevitable by-product of the explosion of higher education which took place in the sixties and early seventies. Academic research, I always say, expands according to the number of those doing the long-suffering public is prepared to pay to conduct it; and new branches, subjects and disciplines have to be invented to persuade us we are getting value for money. As a result, a man or woman who might have been considered superlatively well-educated 30 years ago is now made to feel shamefully out of touch by what amounts to little more than the reclassification of knowledge. However, one should not be snooty. This is a pioneering work, full of facts but also with many solid virtues. Some eminent and reliable scholars have contributed to it, and they have, on the whole, been subjected to highly professional editing.

We have here essential reading for the Strangest of all people, if they have any sense. Being not as conscientious as Lord Bullock, I shall not take it with me on holiday; but I shall keep it on my reference shelf.

Paul Johnson

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TIME magazine, cover story of 3rd October, 1977.

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Ronald Butt

The significant rise of Mr Healey must put him top of the succession stakes

The miner's rejection of the offered productivity deal, and the heightened challenge of their £135 a week pay claim, do not only threaten the Government's economic and pay strategy just when its future seemed brighter.

The result of the ballot also provides a certain ironical justification for Healey's resistance to reviving sterling, to which he agreed with such obvious reluctance.

For the Chancellor's misgivings about a deeper pound were not only because of the effect this might have on export competitiveness, or on account of its possibly deflationary implications.

Until very recently, one of Mr Healey's chief reasons for holding the pound down was his fear that the Government's failure to get a three income package might have wages consequences so damaging to overseas confidence as to lead to renewed pressures on the pound.

If this were to happen (so the argument ran) a cheap pound would be in a safer position than one that had been allowed to go up.

Well, we now have the danger of the complete collapse of the remnants of the Government's pay policy unless it stands firm (which would industrial consequences as anyone's guess at this stage) or unless the miner's leaders and the TUC can help it to fiddle a way out of this corner.

All this throws a new and a more kindly light on the failure of the Chancellor's rearguard action to prevent revaluation—though this does not mean that on more general grounds his hesitation about the sterling rate could any longer be justified. It plainly could not.

Everything now turns on the Government's firmness. Last week, after his Budget statement, Mr Healey was exhorted by a left-wing Labour backbencher, Mr Dennis Skinner, to "keep its nose out" of free collective bargaining and, if it must use sanctions, to keep them to private firms. Mr Healey's reply was forthright.

"The Government", he said, "are determined to use their influence in the public sector as an employer, and in many cases as paymaster", as well as in the private sector where it would, if necessary, withhold discretionary grants and subsidies. It is this determination in the public sector that is now to be tested, and it remains to be seen whether the test will be to destruction.

These difficulties have suddenly erupted at the moment when Mr Callaghan seemed almost in charge of events, and just as Mr Healey had gained a new authority in Parliament which was likely to be of profound significance for the political future.

The moment most revealing of the Government's new self-confidence came during the questions which followed Mr Healey's Budget statement last week, when the ebullient Mr Padoa-Schioppa sprang to give his "unreserved welcome" to the Chancellor's announcements.

Mr Padoa thought the statement brought the Government "half-way to sanity" which would be a "matter of regret to the Conservative Opposition", and his special joy was reserved for the "astounding transformation" in the attitude of Whitehall towards the problems of small businesses in the last six months.

For it is, of course, part of the Liberal's claim to influence that the Government's new virtue in this matter (expressed through the activities of Mr Harold Lever) is due largely to them.

Mr Healey's response was to train on the hapless Mr Padoa the bludgeoning, remorseless heavy-

weight sarcasm which is part of his stock-in-trade. The Chancellor's broadside resembled nothing so much as a battleship blazing all its guns at a rowing boat.

"If anything were needed", he observed, "to complete my satisfaction over the improvement of the nation's economy, it is the knowledge on which I can now securely rest, that I have justified the trust of the hon member for Cornwall North". With his fixed cheeky-chappy grin too firmly in place, Mr Padoa looked as though he knew quite well what had hit him.

The instinct is to wait until autumn

The hinge for the Chancellor's decision was, of course, the little word "now". For there had been no serious doubt, ever since the Lib-Lab pact was sealed, that the Liberals would keep the Government where it is, and no reassurance of confidence from Mr Padoa was needed to tell Mr Healey that he has had nothing to fear from the Liberals in the past, and has almost nothing to fear from them for the future.

Mr Callaghan's instinct is probably to wait until the autumn of 1978 (or even conceivably until 1979) for the Liberal's decision to support or oppose the Government's new policy, but the signs of inflation re-emerged, that would suit him almost as well. For Mr Steel would then have given him an alibi for the earlier date.

Of course, if an early election were precipitated by the collapse of the Government's economic policy over pay, that would be quite a different matter. But this risk apart, ministers are conscious of the strength of their own hand, and Mr Healey's remark to Mr Padoa was evidence of this. Yet there was more still to be read from the Chancellor's performance last week when, dealing with a flow of questions, he displayed an authority in the Commons that must be reckoned of some political significance.

Mr Healey's ability to master departmental nuts and bolts in the member of a highly politicized senior civil servant is new. He excelled at this during his six-year stay at the Ministry of Defence: he has now clearly reached the same sort of expertise at the Treasury. He has a machine mind and an appetite for work and detail which enable him to think very fast on his feet.

His own and his department's plain wisdom in resisting the revaluation of sterling to which he was then forced so suddenly does not seriously diminish his grasp of what he is doing, for it was at least based on a clear, intelligible earlier view of the situation to which I have already referred.

What is new in the last year is Mr Healey's authority in the House of Commons and that could be of real significance in terms of the eventual succession to the Labour leadership. After his poor showing in the post-Wilson leadership contest, and his confrontation with the Labour conference when he put the basic interest rate up to 15 per cent last year, few would have given much credence to Mr Healey's chances of being the next leader of his party.

Today, however, the nerve with which he has stood up to the test of

the past 12 months and the success, so far, of his policies, put a different complexion on things. What is more, serious competition has faded away.

Mr Foot is no longer in it; Mrs Williams has failed to emerge as the leader of any significant section of the party and Mr Callaghan has, for the time being, faded into a wayward Wilson found impossible. Today, after Mr Callaghan, there is only Mr Healey.

The question now is what Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey will do with their success so far, and whether a wages explosion will undermine them before they reach the election. And if they were to reach the election and win, what would they do with a new lease of power once they had waded the Liberals goodbye?

There are people in the City now who are convinced to have a Labour Government implementing sound financial and economic policies which they fear would be politically unacceptable to the Tories, and there are ordinary citizens who feel the same. Yet as the election draws nearer, there will be a rising incentive for the electorate to look beyond polling day to see what sort of government Mr Callaghan will then, if he wins, be able to offer, and what the new phase of Labour's socialism will really amount to.

It is an old maxim that oppositions do not win elections; governments lose them. At the moment, the polls suggest that the present Opposition may not find it easy to win. But this does not mean that it is too late for the Government. Mr Healey's skill notwithstanding, to lose it, and it is probably true to say that his succession to the leadership depends on Mr Callaghan's being able to hand it to him in power. In Opposition, it would be quite another matter.



Mr Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives: a man the President has learnt not to offend.

Is President Carter wising up to the ways of Washington?

Washington

The word around Washington is that Jimmy Carter is the best-qualified President since Herbert Hoover. After all, Mr Carter, like Mr Hoover, is an engineer, a businessman, an intellectual, an experienced administrator, a man who knows all the questions and thinks he knows all the answers.

Another comparison is with John F. Kennedy. The two Presidents had terrible relations with Congress and with the business community, and the President's foreign policy was not notably successful until near the end, when he achieved the Test Ban Treaty.

Mr Carter has been President now for nine months, and is in the midst of a period of sharp criticism. Since the Lance affair came into the open last August, he has done nothing right and the unforgiving critics are gleefully talking about a one-term presidency.

Now it is clearly much too early to write off Jimmy Carter. Last week the House of Representatives passed a Bill refinancing the social security system and the senate has followed suit and is at last making some progress on the Energy Bill. There are signs of criticism of his way of doing things, but above all the vast powers of the presidency, and his ability to sway events, remain intact.

The central criticism of the Carter presidency is that the President is too suspicious of strangers, that he is too sure of his own abilities and that therefore he tries to do everything himself. The best manager to reach the White House, however, is turning out to be a bad manager.

He is influenced, partly, by memories of the Nixon White House, in which business was organized with Teutonic efficiency by Mr R. Helmsman and John Ehrlichman. Things are different today: Mr Carter sees far more people, reads far more papers and falls steadily behind in his work. He finally conceded last week that he was not a manager, a word which he has worked intensively, will not be ready until next year. It was promised for last June.

The President's most glaring failing is that he has been too slow to take action on the relations with Congress. He won the election as an outsider, promising to come to Washington to clean up the place.

He has taken him nine months, but he does seem to have learnt, at last, about the separation of powers. Congress is a separate and equal branch of the United States Government, and the President must win its co-operation by persuasion and reason, not by issuing orders.

He learnt about the House of Representatives first. He found that the Speaker of the House, Mr Tip O'Neill, is a

man of consequence. His young Georgian thought it a joke when Mr O'Neill was offered at being given a seat in the back row at a gala inauguration concert. They no longer make that sort of mistake, and Mr O'Neill got the Energy Bill through with dispatch, and has just got the Social Security Bill through.

The Senate is even more prickly than the House and it required a longer and more difficult session to discover that its mandarins must be consulted at every turn. It was really not sensible to produce an Energy Bill, including detailed tax proposals, without first consulting Senator Russell Long, chairman of the Finance Committee.

In much the same way, Mr Carter has learnt about foreign policy. He began his presidency by lecturing foreign governments, notably the Russians, on human rights. It became quickly apparent that although taking human rights seriously had some beneficial effects in other ways it was a disaster.

The disaster was not just a result of misunderstanding Russians. It was a result also of the President's strong sense of his own infallibility. Mr Carter examines problems with great thoroughness. He understands them, and when he has reflected on them, he produces a solution. It then becomes extremely difficult for him to grasp how anyone can disagree with an obviously correct solution that he has produced after such long labour. He really believed that his own proposals were equitable, to both sides and was shocked when the Russians disagreed.

He is equally astonished that Israelis and their friends here do not agree with his proposals for the Middle East. He thinks the proposals are logical, fair, that they guarantee peace for everyone, and are thoroughly consistent with the highest principles. The Israelis do not like them one bit. Fortunately Mr Carter has never been in a mind to the Irish question.

If the President, as some of his friends claim, is now changing his habits, is learning from his mistakes and from the frank and forthright comments of the city of Washington, he may yet turn into an outstanding President. He might solve the energy crisis, bring peace to the Middle East, balance the budget and restore competence and compassion to the Federal Government.

If he has learnt from his past mistakes, he will have seven years in which to achieve all this. If not, he will probably have to rely on the traditional death-wish of the Republicans to ensure his reelection.

Patrick Brogan

Bernard Levin, the tapes, and the question of privacy

It was, I suppose, inevitable that Bernard Levin would comment on the issues raised by the resignation of Sir Richard Dobson. And it was just as inevitable that he would use the occasion to unleash a semiotic diatribe against his favourite enemy: the Marxist left. In that sense his column in *The Times* (October 25), was predictable. The vulgarity and philistinism contained in his attack was, however, somewhat unbalanced, even for a columnist with Levin's prejudices.

What were the central issues posed by the publication in *Socialist Challenge* of Sir Richard's speech? In our opinion they were racism and the corrupt and undemocratic structures of nationalised industries. In any event, the question of "privacy" was not central. Even if it had been, the statement by Sir Richard defending his speech should have removed it from the agenda.

There is at the present time a rising tide of racism in this country. The National Union of Journalists (to which both Levin and I belong) has recognized this fact by inserting an anti-racist clause in its Code of Conduct and pursuing an active policy against racism in the media. Was it, then, so much to hope that the Dobson speech would be used to wage a vigorous campaign against racism in British industry? To discuss both why it existed and how it was best fought? Does

one have to be a Marxist to realize that this is an urgent need?

I do not believe that only Marxists or socialists are hostile to racism. The general reaction of leader-writers and columnists in the national press could, however, have given one that impression. The question of racism was dismissed as being virtually irrelevant. Sir Richard was merely guilty of an "off-colour" joke. Bernard Levin himself attempted to put the nice possible gloss on Sir Richard's offending words: "Of course Sir Richard did not intend a racial slur when he used the words 'compromising', he was speaking colloquially, lightly, as he thought privately..."

Perhaps Levin's thought processes could decipher what Sir Richard actually intended if not a "racial slur". And the defending his speech should have removed it from the agenda. There is at the present time a rising tide of racism in this country. The National Union of Journalists (to which both Levin and I belong) has recognized this fact by inserting an anti-racist clause in its Code of Conduct and pursuing an active policy against racism in the media. Was it, then, so much to hope that the Dobson speech would be used to wage a vigorous campaign against racism in British industry? To discuss both why it existed and how it was best fought? Does

attack on Mr Cooper and myself.

Of course when it comes to South Africa, Bernard Levin is fearless, but he remains in general, silent on racism in Britain. His hatred of everything to the left of Roy Jenkins is obsession. The left is endlessly lambasted. The main charge of the "off-colour" joke is that Sir Richard was merely guilty of an "off-colour" joke. Bernard Levin himself attempted to put the nice possible gloss on Sir Richard's offending words: "Of course Sir Richard did not intend a racial slur when he used the words 'compromising', he was speaking colloquially, lightly, as he thought privately..."

It is widely recognised (and not just in left-wing circles) that capitalist economic policies implemented by a Labour government have created an atmosphere of despair and demoralization among working people, inflation and cuts in social expenditure have seen a real decline in living standards. Given the accompanying mass depoliticization, the racist solution has gained some credibility. There are two million black people in this country. There are also nearly two million unemployed. The answer for simple minds is obvious. Get rid of the first and you will get rid of the second.

If Bernard Levin were to visit some of the more deprived areas of the Midlands, the north-east or London, he would be able to get a smell of Weimar in the air. The pace of polarization is remarkable. It is a depressing and, for most black people, a frightening period. To label those who are fast-moving in these areas to fight against racism as "fun-revolutionaries" or part of the "radical chic set" is simply grotesque. It is not fun to get threats against one's life or to see the homes of socialists attacked with fire-bombs. That

is why we argue that a broad and sharp campaign against racism is necessary on every front. That is why Peter Cooper finally decided to give us the tape. It was not an easy choice for Peter, despite all Levin's sneers, but it was a courageous and courageous one.

But double-standards know no bounds. And Bernard Levin is the Prince of Hypocrisy. Where was "privacy" when the entire national press was exposing Tony Kelly for daring to say that Reg Prentice was a Tory who should not be re-elected as the Labour candidate for Newham North-east?

Levin, who effects a concern for all things democratic, has still to wage a campaign to demand the resignation of Reg Prentice in order that the citizenry of Newham North-east are not deprived of their democratic rights. Instead those fighting for more democracy on every level are consistently attacked, not least in Levin's own union's London Free Press Branch, where our democratic columnist drafted and proposed a Draconian 10-page set of standing orders which would have ended debate and placed all power in the hands of his right-wing colleagues on the branch committee.

Peter Cooper taped a speech made by a prominent industrialist at a club which announced him on the menu as the main speaker. He gave *Socialist Challenge* that speech after debating with his conscience for a week. Levin purports this fact. Why? Because in his world all Marxists are demons and monsters. They have no soul, no humanity, no culture, no sense of humour. What tragedy! Mr Cooper hesitated precisely because of his relationship with his parents. It was the

racist content of the speech which finally decided the matter for him. And he was right. He deserves 10 marks out of 10 for initiative and courage. Mr Levin refers to this as "weedy treachery". What he should do is the fact that not a single member of the Twenty Club has dissociated himself from the Club's "sincere apology" to Sir Richard Dobson is not known. Presumably that is because it is Levin's column, not his, which is the one to defend. Those who would like a return to capitalism.

In conclusion we would like to return to the question of "privacy". What is private and public? This is a question which newspapers regularly publish details of the real lives of thousands and thousands of people. We are not referring to cases of rape or battered wives, but to scores of spaces given to divorce cases, sexual preferences, etc. It is certainly not *Socialist Challenge* or the left-wing press.

In his carefully cultivated ignorance, Levin descends to the level of the philistines whom he professes to despise so much. He writes that Peter Cooper, who by implication is a Marxist, would regard Shakespeare as "a capitalist lackey and fascist lackey". But which Marxists use such language about anyone, not to mention geniuses like Shakespeare or Mozart? We certainly don't!

In fact, Levin knows perfectly well that I am a Trotskyist. He should know that one of the merits of Trotsky lay precisely in the fact that he was able to engage in a political debate and try to keep his "immeasurable neurotic dread" of Marxism within bounds.

Tariq Ali

The author is editor of *Socialist Challenge*.

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The facts and the fiction on Paul Scott

If the novelist Paul Scott wins this year's £5,000 Booker Prize, Britain's largest award for fiction, and it will be criminal if he doesn't, he may be more unlikely that he will attend the prizegiving dinner at Claridges on November 23.

Mr Scott, who is 56, went to the United States in July, as a visiting lecturer at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma. Last month, he was taken seriously ill and rushed to St Francis Hospital where he is now recovering from a major operation.

His competition on this year's Booker shortlist indicate that it has not been a vintage year for British fiction. It is hard to imagine the judges choosing Paul Bailey, Caroline Blackwood, Jennifer Johnston, Penelope Lively or Barbara Pym in preference to Mr Scott. His novel, *Staying On*, which about the Britons who remained in India after partition, was greeted with universal enthusiasm by the critics on its publication in March.

The award would be pecuniary recognition for Mr Scott not before time. He has published 13 novels, but although highly praised, particularly for his four novels known as *The Raj Quartet*, he has never reached the best-seller lists.

Bargain of the week, as advertised in the *Wishbone Standard*: "Pony's saddle 16in. complete with bridle, £36".

His master's voice, on TV

I was going to begin this item with a dissertation on Tiger Tim who, at the age of 40 knows, once granted the multi-hour pages of his own weekly comic.

Instead, I yield pride of place to Snoopy, an animal of more recent vintage who, as everyone over the age of six knows, graces a cartoon strip called *Peanuts*.

The reason I give precedence to the doleful beagle in Charles Schulz's wise and wonderful cartoon is that yesterday I attended a preview of a BBC TV film in which Mr Schulz speaks in a rare interview. He prefers to let his creations—Snoopy, Charlie Brown et al—speak for him.

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The film goes out on BBC 1, Sunday night, 10.25 pm. As for Tiger Tim, a superbly coloured facsimile of his August 8, 1931, adventure appears in a bumper comic collection—16 different comics in all—published by W. Howard Baker at 5s.

THE TIMES DIARY/ PHS

Getting back in the Euro-swing

Those of you who miss the presence of Lord George Brown in domestic politics will be glad to learn that (while he may be a little out of touch with the age of 40 knows, once granted the multi-hour pages of his own weekly comic).

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Only just in busy control

Computer men have their own special language, so I was not amazed by the reply I got when I asked one of them what they did when there is a power cut. "We quiesce the system," he replied. But what did it mean?

"To quiesce the system" apparently means gradually to reduce the load on the computer. "By quiescing the lines," he explained, "the telephone line terminal so that customers needing a direct link with the computer receive a signal indicating that the computer is fully occupied."

I am assured that a sudden, unexpected break in electricity supply can cause a lot of trouble, so the computer centres are buzzing with nervous operators anxiously watching their control panels.

Overheard on the Gatwick airport public address system: "Would Mr Francis Drake, passenger to the USA, please come to the airport information desk."

"I hope the press aren't here," said Joyce Grenfell, yesterday, "because I was about to say that we were going to misinterpret it. It was a beautiful thought small was beautiful because it took longer to get money in an American bank than a British. She was proposing the adoption of the accounts of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution annual meeting. What worried her was that the last time she made word news was when she told a *Woman of the Year* that it was nice to be a woman to receive a certain sum of money at the end of the day. It fitted round the globe under the headline: 'Happiness is taking off your girdle'."

Then there was Arthur Scargill on television saying that the miners did not bring down the Heath Administration. "They brought it themselves down," he said. "With such impeccable logic, how can we deny the miners a paltry £135 per week?"

Have you been experiencing a wonderful sense of déjà vu? You know, reliving in cold water by the light of a flickering candle while the power workers "go slow" and the miners threaten to bring the Government (and the country) to its knees? I have. It is, if you recall, exactly like the winter of 1973.

Only then, the anti-Heath press carried stories of elderly spinsters getting stuck in lift shafts and having to be saved by rough mechanics. Now the press reports no such disasters, even though (as I drove to the airport yesterday morning) every traffic light between home and Heath was stuck at red (what an appropriate colour).

NORTHERN IRELAND

a Special Report

After more than eight almost continuous years of terrorism, the political problems of Northern Ireland remain stubbornly unsolved. But in recent months a new optimism has been discernible in the tone of ministerial speeches and less of the normal despondency and tension has been visible among ordinary citizens.

This is largely the result of a weakening in the Provisional IRA and a marked reduction in the violent activities of the "Protestant" paramilitary groups. Official statistics show that in the first nine months of this year, 100 people met violent deaths compared with 232 during the same period last year.

The detailed records of terrorist violence accurately reflect the more relaxed atmosphere now to be encountered at most levels of Northern Ireland society. The hopefulness is cautious in the extreme, heavily hedged about with clauses and conditions, but it is there all the same.

The only violent activity on the increase is "kneecapping". This age-old form of punishment is practised with grisly enthusiasm by extremists on both sides of the sectarian divide. But internal divisions within the IRA are regarded by detectives as the main reason why this year's total already exceeds 100—with many of the victims maimed for life.

For most of the 1,500,000 inhabitants of the province, the improvements have brought more immediate and tangible benefits than those which would arise from a sudden bout of political progress. The lack of amenities still poses great problems and magnifies the other hardships imposed by guerrilla warfare, but in recent months there has been evidence that the drop in killing has encouraged more ordinary activity.

Unfortunately, in areas this is restricted within one or other of the two religious communities, with only the professional classes bridging the tragic gap between "atholics and Protestants" on any regular basis.

From the Government's point of view, two events during the year are singled out as contributing most to the reduction in violence—which was most noticeable in August, traditionally the bloodiest month in Northern Ireland.

The first was the defeat of the loyalist strike last

May, leading to humiliation for its extremist leaders, and a considerable boost for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

A five thousand strong force which has been repeatedly accused of showing partiality against Catholics. The continuing battle to win its acceptance in the republican areas remains one of the Cabinet's main goals.

The second, balancing factor was the failure of the Provisional IRA to live up to its extravagant threats to wreck the Queen's Jubilee trip to the most violent corner of her realm. After issuing inflammatory warnings about their plans to make the visit "a day to remember", the Provisionals found themselves unable to wreck the promised havoc.

The result was a considerable loss of face for the leadership, and a strengthening of the hand of the so-called "doves" within the ranks, men who are pressing for the eight year campaign of violence to be abandoned.

Mr Roy Mason, the Secretary of State, was quick to seize the opportunity. An ex-coal miner who is the fourth minister to fill one of the Cabinet's most testing posts, Mr Mason has managed to convince Protestants that Britain is not planning a sudden withdrawal. This was a considerable achievement, helped by a blunt, no-nonsense approach which contrasted sharply with the more ambivalent posture of his immediate predecessor, Mr Marilyn Rees.

On arriving at Stormont in September 1976 Mr Mason pledged himself to improve the working of direct rule and to avoid plunging into what he called "disastrous" Ulster's "political whirlpool". In the summer of several local politicians, and the more restrained district of both the Conservative Party and the new Dublin Government, it proved a promise which was largely adhered to.

Talks with Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders did eventually take place, and more are now planned, but it is generally accepted that agreement is further away than it was when the cons-

titutional convention collapsed 19 months ago.

Although the Government remains committed to the concept of power sharing, there is no sign that the harder-line Protestant parties will accept it. The notion has also been attacked as impractical by the non-sectarian Alliance Party, and is regarded as so unlikely to be achieved by the mainly Catholic SDLP that its disillusioned leadership has once again started emphasising the Irish dimension.

Faced with these deeply entrenched differences, there is a firm belief in Whitehall that any more abortive attempts to launch a British initiative would only serve to inflame community differences. The one new political idea which has emerged over the past 12 months has been the so-called Molynaux plan, a heavy but important idea for setting up a type of super county council to administer sectors of local government now handled by appointed boards.

Any new attempts to encourage political dialogue are certain to centre around this concept of an interim step on the road to full devolution. But chances of achieving any quick success are regarded as thin, with ministers having already discovered that the difficulties which lie in the way of a half-way house are similar to those which have long prevented any agreement on the elusive form of full devolution.

For the moment, therefore, there is little sign of anything likely to break the political stalemate. Direct rule may be acceptable to more Ulstermen than could once have been imagined, but senior government aides who attended a recent Anglo-Irish conference will not have missed the warnings spelt out by one moderate Catholic politician from Northern Ireland. "Even if the violence was to cease completely within a few months, I am afraid that without a political solution it would be certain to break out again with equal ferocity in a matter of a few years."

Christopher Walker

by Ronald Kershaw

It is a little over a year ago that Mr Roy Mason, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in the absence of any marked progress towards a solution to the province's problems, launched an attack on the economic ills of the region. His reasoning was that poverty, unemployment and frustration at the hopelessness of the future provided a breeding ground for violence.

The creation of a better quality of life, he argued, would gradually bring about the realization that life was worth living and passive acceptance of terrorism would turn to revulsion at the killings and bombings. The great majority of peaceable people in Northern Ireland would be moved to cooperate actively in the elimination of the gangster.

To fight to keep what you have implies you must have something in the first place and to work for peace and plenty you must have jobs. Accordingly, the Northern Ireland administration launched a "high-powered" campaign to attract new investment, to reduce what Mr Mason has called the "unemployment mountain" and generally create a worthwhile future.

Government ministers and officials are now in the middle of their drive to create and extend industry and nobody is more aware than they of the magnitude of the task. The mountain of unemployment is now running at 11.6 per cent—nearly twice as high as in Britain. Last year more than 75 companies closed down their Northern Ireland operations. Production costs have risen faster than in Britain and the political problems have contributed, though not significantly, to the decline in jobs.

Dr George Quigley, who last month accompanied Mr Mason on an investment promotion tour of the United States, in a searching report on Northern Ireland's economy published last November, forecast that by 1980 a further 25,000 jobs would be lost to the pro-

vince. Nobody has yet found a reason to doubt his judgment as the task facing the Northern Ireland administration is to attract sufficient industry, first to stop the decline then to create new jobs.

To aid this process, Mr Mason has appointed a new Northern Ireland Economic Council under the chairmanship of Professor C. F. Carter, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University and formerly Professor of Applied Economics at Queen's University, Belfast.

Unlike trade missions which tend to show results quickly in terms of orders, investment-seeking missions such as the American tour by Mr Mason and Mr Don Concannon, deputy Secretary of State, tend to take time to pay off. A bonus was the announcement by Du Pont, America's biggest chemical company in the middle of Mr Mason's October tour, that it intended going ahead with a £25m modernization programme at its neoprene synthetic rubber plant at Maydown, Londonderry.

Du Pont officials made it clear that without the modernization 450 jobs at the existing plant would be lost. As a result there may be a slight increase in jobs. For two years 800 to 1,000 construction workers will be employed on the plant. The only casualty will be the neighbouring British Oxygen Company factory which has been supplying the neoprene plant with acetylene. The modernized Du Pont plant will be based on a new process using cheaper raw materials but about 250 BOC people will be laid off unless alternative work can be found.

Northern Ireland's investment record in the past year or so is impressive. The Ford Motor Company has provided 400 jobs in a £10m expansion scheme; Berkshire International, a Londonderry textile firm, 300 jobs in a £1,600,000 investment; Synthetic Industries, Incorporated, at Newry, 170 jobs with £5m investment; and Galloway's has invested £2m. The Synthetic Industries project was the first United States new investment in Northern Ireland

Investment as a means to peace

since 1969 but the emphasis is on "new". There has been American investment in the province of about £120m by 32 companies up to May 1976 and more recent investment decisions involve £58m and 1,200 new jobs.

Even so, at the first meeting of the new economic council recently, Mr Mason, with the bluntness for which he is noted, told the council: "The supply of new jobs has not kept pace with rising job demands. There has not, however, been a sharp fall in employment and the long-term trend remains one of expansion". He explained that the total working was 493,000, a marginal reduction since 1974 but an increase of 10 per cent over 1960.

Even so, he made it clear that the job of the council was to assist the Government in holding on to existing jobs and giving aid to companies in short to medium-term difficulties. The Government, he said, wanted to make sure that the value of Northern Ireland's one real natural resource—man-power—was enhanced by a rising level of skills and to establish a sound basis for competitive industry.

Mr Mason went to some pains to emphasize that the marginal increase in unemployment had not been caused by a loss of jobs but by an increase in people coming on to the labour market. It was important that outside investors be aware of this, he said.

Probably the most significant contribution to the fight for industry was the £1,000m economic package announced by the Secretary of State at the beginning of August, of which the new council was part. The essence of the new deal included writing off £250m of the £285m debt of the Northern Ireland Electricity Service to the Government Loan Fund, and over the next five years providing £100m in grants to the electricity service.

Electricity charges to Northern Ireland consumers were anything between 30 per cent and 70 per cent greater than in Britain. Direct subsidies have been ruled out of electricity charges but there is little doubt that the measures will mean significant price reduc-



Work on the Short Brothers SD 3-30 airliner, two of which were recently ordered by a United States airline.

tions for industrial and commercial users at least.

The package contained an increase from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the maximum rate of government grants for industry setting up in areas of high unemployment where unemployment rates as high as 30 per cent occur. In areas not qualifying for maximum rates where grants are proportionately lower, they too have been raised by 10 per cent. A grant aid scheme to encourage research and development of new processes and products with an upper limit of £250,000 for each project will, it is hoped, bring new technology. Rent abatement schemes for companies using government-built premises have been extended from three years to five years.

The construction industry is to be given a £2,750,000 investment boost to counter rising unemployment. In total about £100m this year and £600m over the following five years will be served for expansion and capital grants which, with

the electricity bonus, makes up the package. As an incentive to incoming industrialists and expanding existing industries it cannot be bettered in the United Kingdom. It means that in the worst unemployment areas an employer can have up to 50 per cent of the cost of buildings and plant met by the Government and no matter where he goes in Northern Ireland he will be able to get up to 40 per cent. Industrialists have up to the end of March, 1980, to have their projects approved.

It is perhaps fitting that Northern Ireland with the highest level of unemployment in the United Kingdom has the highest rates of government aid and, while it has the worst level of unemployment, it has the best industrial relations record. Political commentators may read what they will into that. For good measure it should be said that last year the number of working days lost through industrial disputes totalled 45,052 compared with 245,735 in the previous year—a drop of 82 per cent.

For further measure it should also be mentioned that between 1970 and 1976 productivity in manufacturing industry increased by 32 per cent in Northern Ireland, a figure which leaves the rest of the United Kingdom way behind. Right or wrong morally, there are said to be those who subscribe to the theory that nine men chasing 10 jobs is an ideal situation to produce the best from a workforce. If there are, Northern Ireland would appear to be the place for them.

Disaster could easily have overtaken the province earlier this year when "loyalist" extremists called for an all-out strike in support of a demand for firmer measures against the Provisional IRA and an end to direct rule from Westminster.

The wholehearted rejection by the majority of trade unionists may well, in hindsight, be regarded as the turning point in the economy of the province. It was led by about 9,000 workers at the Belfast shipyard of Harland and Wolff, almost the

continued on next page

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Established 153 years ago in Northern Ireland, Northern Bank to-day is the largest bank serving the financial needs of the Province. Through a network of almost 200 branches our managers have their fingers on the pulse of every major town, shopping centre and industrial development area. Collared by our experts at Head Office, this data can provide you, our customer, with whatever information you may require on any specific Market area. Should this relate to finance, availability of labour or housing, the Northern can provide the answer.

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Northern Bank

Call from the minister: hard facts will win over myths



The attractions of Northern Ireland as a base for manufacturing industry are now so great that investors both in Britain and overseas owe it to themselves and their shareholders to examine them in detail before coming to a decision on the location of new outlets.

That is the message my ministers and I are seeking to carry around the world as we continue the drive to place the Northern Ireland economy on a much sounder footing.

It is a message some cynics may say is rather optimistic, bearing in mind our problems of the past few years. I take a more positive view, as I did on my

recent tour of North America.

I do so because industrialists decide for investment or against it on the basis of hard facts and figures and it is in these rather than in myths and half-truths that we in Northern Ireland like to deal.

We can point to the fact that since the Second World War more than 300 companies from Britain and overseas, employing more than 50,000 people, have been attracted to the province and that their story has been one of remarkable success. Thirty of these are American companies, which represent some £400m of investment at 1976 prices. They have on their payroll 18,000 workers.

We can point to the fact that in recent times many of these companies have increased substantially their investments in the province. They have shown their confidence in Northern Ireland by increasing their stake in the past year to the tune of £29m, and in recent weeks we have been given a further tremendous boost by the decision of the Du Pont company to invest £25m in modernizing its plant in Londonderry.

We can point to our excellent record of economic activity. Since 1969 our manufacturing output has risen by 14 per cent, compared with the overall figure for the United Kingdom of 4 per cent. In the same period our productivity rose by 37 per cent as against 30 per cent in the

United Kingdom as a whole. And on the industrial relations front Northern Ireland's record since 1969 has been better than that of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

In addition to a first-rate industrial track record we can offer potential investors a package of inducements to set up in the province which can hold its own with those offered by industrial areas anywhere. An industrialist setting up in one of our areas of high unemployment can now receive tax-free grants of 50 per cent on his building and machinery costs.

Grants are but one element in a vast package which seeks to smooth the way for the industrialist.

If, for example, a customer needs labour training of a particular sort we can meet his precise needs. If he requires a factory we can provide it, either fit the peg or tailored to his requirements. Government departments take pride in the flexibility of our industrial development programme. It can be used in a host of ways to get a new factory quickly and efficiently into production.

The picture of Northern Ireland that has gone around the world in recent years is of a place in shambles. Those who visit the province know that to be a totally false picture. Throughout the troubles we have lost only 824 manufacturing jobs through the closure of companies as a direct result of terrorist action. There is

no denying that Northern Ireland faces major political problems, but I wish to emphasize that in no way impair security of investment.

There is growing in Northern Ireland now a new feeling of confidence. The security forces have been moving forward steadily in their fight against terrorism. Their success rate is improving all the time and life is becoming very tough indeed for the remaining gunmen and bombers. We still have the occasional act of violence, but overall the picture is vastly improved.

I have made it clear that there is an acceptable level of violence in Northern Ireland. I am determined to restore normality to the province and at the same time to work vigorously towards a sound economic and industrial structure. An unemployment rate of 11.6 per cent is not to be tolerated.

We have geared ourselves to move forward very quickly when the economy upswing in America and elsewhere gains full momentum. The past year has brought many advances in our drive to establish a peaceful and viable future for Northern Ireland.

I am very hopeful that as our image abroad improves and as our true value as a base for profitable investment emerges the coming year will see us take much greater strides along the road of progress.

Roy Mason

Ill wind has promoted growth

by Robert Rodwell

It is no argument for a continuation of the unrest but peace tomorrow in Northern Ireland would put a substantial number of people out of work. "Security" in the widest sense has been one of the province's few growth industries in this decade.

The lifting of the threat coupled with the confidence to cease forthwith the tedious and largely ineffective frisking of shoppers and other people about their daily pursuits would result in several thousand people losing their livelihoods.

The civilian security "industry" is comprised of three main sectors—security guards and body searchers employed directly by industrial and commercial firms; the uniformed Civilian Search Unit which is an auxiliary of the Northern Ireland Police Authority and private security companies. In addition to these there has also been a marked growth in the number of companies selling, installing and servicing various security systems, closed-circuit television surveillance and fireproof safes.

Apart from the wholly civilian sectors of security there are two others in which thousands of civilians participate part-time and supplement their income from other jobs—the 4,500-strong Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve and the 7,800-strong Ulster Defence Regiment, of which 6,000 members are part-timers. The RUCR would be nothing like as large if political and civil unrest did not exist and the UDR would not exist at all. Adding all these sectors together, at least 20,000 civilians are seen to earn their living either wholly or

partly from some aspect of security. The Government pays grants towards the employment of several thousand security officers in addition to the staff it employs directly in the Civilian Search Unit, the RUC Reserve and the UDR. Manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, hoteliers and carminers employ security guards, employing 10 or more people can apply for Department of Commerce grants towards the wages of their security staff.

Now costing about £4.5m a year, the grant scheme covers 3,000 security officers directly employed by about 1,300 firms. Operations since 1974, the grants were increased in line in step with inflation. Eligible applicants receive 75 per cent of the wages of each security officer up to a maximum of £1,550 a person a year, on the basis of one security officer for every 100 or part-100 employees up to a maximum of five. Extra security staff above this scale command a grant of £1,150 a person a year.

Government spokesmen say that grants are paid only for "approved" staff and applications have to be certified by the RUC's crime prevention officers, through whom some training is available. For all that, the impression carried away by most people who have experienced the dreary frustration of shopping in the centre of Belfast or Derry is that many shop-door friskers are, in fact, bored pensioners or housewives doing a spare-time job and their effectiveness in preventing the placing of small incendiary timebombs—the main threat to commercial premises—is almost nil. Because of the recently increased firebomb threat, the Commerce Department has recently split its security

grant scheme into separate entities for some enterprises of particular risk, such as department stores which have both a daytime security requirement on the doors, and a night-patrol fire-watching need. Separate grants are now available for night-watchers but—unlike stores, offices and warehouses—places of entertainment, surprisingly, do not qualify for grant. This omission has been spotlighted in recent weeks by the overnight fire-bomb destruction or damage of several of Ulster's remaining cinemas including the largest, the ABC in the centre of Belfast.

The CSU's 460 uniformed men and women man a day-and-night perimeter around the main shopping centres of Belfast and Derry, frisking shoppers and commuters and searching their bags at permanent checkpoints and searching the few vehicles which, on special permits, are allowed inside the high security zones. CSU staff also search incoming cargoes at the docks and the entire force is said to rely on soldiers and police of search duties, so permitting their use in more active and terrorist roles.

If the CSU city centre searches have ever found anything it has escaped public record and the entire security structure in central Belfast is under heavy fire from traders led by the Chamber of Trade President Mr Gordon Smyth, a prominent Belfast retailer. He describes the heavy security presence, including the Army's heavily fortified battalion headquarters, and rifle-armed patrols, in Royal Avenue as a disconcerting distraction to out-of-town shoppers entering Belfast and thus hastening the commercial decline of the city.

While supporting the virtual "pedestrianisation" of the city centre—which is desirable for environmental reasons anyway—and vehicle searches as effective counter-measures to the car bomb, Mr Smyth wants the pedestrian checkpoints and shop-door searches to be dropped as useless. His views are gaining increasing support with the realization that everything necessary to make a small incendiary timebomb can be purchased inside one store and assembled in the nearest lavatory.

Eight years of violence has led to rapid growth in private security companies and 18 are listed in Ulster's Yellow Pages. Many of the newcomers are under-capitalized, unproved one-man outfits, according to Mr Bill Wray, regional secretary of the Industrial Police and Security Association and the proprietor of one of the largest and oldest security firms. Together, the private companies employ about 2,000 but no collective figure of their turnover is available. Eligible clients can obtain government grants of up to 50 per cent of the costs of using them and many traders, particularly hoteliers, prefer to use security contractors rather than hiring their own staff.

Although it has created a boom for them, the emergency is full of hazards, for the security firms, according to Mr Wray. "We have to watch very carefully the kind of clients we take on and not take on too much work resulting simply from the troubles. If we did so, we could be left with very little indeed when the troubles cease for we would lose shops, shopping arcades and hotels overnight."

by Peter Godfrey

Old Bushmills is Northern Ireland's only distillery—and the world's oldest. Transformed from the cottage industry which was granted a distilling licence by James I in 1608, it now produces a million gallons of whiskey a year, two thirds of it for export.

Irish whiskey—the "a" distinguishes it from Scotch—has a long tradition. Peter the Great is said to have pronounced soberly after a study tour of Europe: "Of all beverages, the Irish is the best." In 1612, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Cockayne, had to part with some property to pay for his imports of Bushmills. Earlier still, a Norman army captain campaigning in north Antrim gave each of his men a mighty draught of "usquebaugh" (the Gaelic word from which whiskey originates), a predilection which is reputedly scarcely to have diminished since among the Irish.

Old Bushmills preserves its historical distilling techniques, but has recently spent £3m on modernizing and expanding its distillery at Bushmills, and a distillation plant at Coleraine. The whiskey is exported to 62 countries. The two distilleries produce different blends of whiskey: Coleraine is predominantly grain-based, while Old Bushmills is a predominantly malt blend. Both are blends of a single malt and single grain, ensuring a consistency of flavor which is purified by the company's "triple still" method. Old Bushmills even employs its own

coopers to look after and restore its whiskey casks. Old Bushmills stands in tranquil surroundings, drawing its water from St Columba's Rill, a tributary of the river Bush, which runs past it. The distillery is set in a village of 1,200 inhabitants, a high street clock reminiscent of a traditional Irish round tower. Only three miles away is the Giant's Causeway and the unspoiled beauty of the north is a constant reminder of the largely forgotten tourist development: surprisingly few visitors venture to the causeway, a geological formation so remarkable that its hexagonal "organ pipes" were once thought to have been carved by man.

While the dearth of tourists may enhance the countryside, it does little to promote local products. Old Bushmills sends to markets people into Northern Ireland, we would sell a lot more whiskey here and benefit from a massive export. Mr Bill McCourt, managing director of Old Bushmills, said, Mr McCourt shares a view held by many industrialists in Northern Ireland that the media's preoccupation with the sectarian troubles overshadows productive efforts being made.

Old Bushmills, owned for many years by the Boyd family, was once known as a "Protestant" whiskey. Although it no longer has any such connotations in Ireland, there are still one or two bars in New York which refuse to stock it. The Boyds sold out in the late 1960s to Sir Isaac Newton, and the distillery was subsequently bought by Bass Charrington. It did not

seem to fit into the scheme of things at the large brewery group, however, and is now owned by a consortium in which Seagram, an American distilling company, has a large minority shareholding. Old Bushmills is part of the Irish Distillers' Group, a quoted public company which incorporates major whiskey manufacturers in the republic.

Old Bushmills retains a large amount of autonomy, and has developed a high-

protein animal food additive, a by-product of the distilling process, which is proving lucrative. It is the only producer of such animal feed in Northern Ireland. On the international spirits market, Irish whiskey has still to contend with the pre-eminence of Scotch, but is making up ground, partly through the popularity of such drinks as Irish coffee (allegedly the invention of an enterprising harman at Shannon airport). The marketing strategy of Old Bush-

mills is primarily aimed overseas, particularly at the United States.

Until recently, the industrial side effects of political upheavals in Northern Ireland have had little effect on Old Bushmills distillery, as on other local companies. But Irish whiskey is beginning to gain some of the international recognition long accorded to Scotch. "The potential is there," Mr McCourt said. "Business is good, and but for the troubles it would be booming."



The still room at Old Bushmills distillery, one of the world's oldest.

Investment as a means to peace

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entire workforce, who only a few days earlier had been told that the shipyard had won a £70m order for two liquefied petroleum gas carriers—the first new order for the firm since 1974.

This was the year a strike similar to the one abortively called for the year brought the province to its knees. If ever Mr Mason needed justification for his theory that people would fight to retain their jobs it was to be found in this rejection of workers' action.

He told shipyard workers: "Your future is in your own hands. Safeguard it." They did it: men for two years. Small wonder they defied the

strike-makers. Since then the shipyard has won another order for a £12.5m ferry vessel for the Larne-Stranraer route of British Rail, products which Northern Ireland sends to markets abroad. G. E. outside the United Kingdom has been increasing in recent years and is now running at £14.50m a year.

Contributing greatly to export achievement in the Belfast firm of Short Brothers, which last year celebrated 75 years in the aerospace industry. A few weeks ago it announced an order for two Short SD 3-30 aircraft for a big United States commuter airline, Henson Aviation of Maryland, to be delivered this month and January with an option on two further aircraft for delivery in late 1978 and early 1979. This

development raises the total number of firm sales to 12 with a further five aircraft on option to airlines in North America and Germany. The company which has received awards from both Boeing and Lockheed for high quality and prompt delivery of components, fuselages, aircraft, aerostuctures—major components for aircraft of other manufacturers—and missiles, notably close-range guided weapon systems.

The company employs more than 6,000 people and no doubt this influenced the Government's role in its financial restructuring. As Dr P. F. Foreman, the managing director recently pointed out, it was long overdue that Short's authorized share capital had remained unchanged at £2.5m since 1947. Lack of capital meant borrowing to finance major projects and that meant heavy interest charges.

The Northern Ireland Department of Commerce was subscribed four million new £1 shares. The shares capital has increased to £19.31m of which 61.45 per cent is held by the Department of Commerce, 33.85 per cent by the Department of Industry at Westminster and the remainder divided equally between Harland and Wolff and the Receiver of the old Rolls-Royce company. The company has an impressive export record and it is expected that the new financial footing it now enjoys will encourage steady expansion of business and workforce. That is what government initiatives are all about.

Short Brothers is anxiously watching developments in the sale of the Fairey Aircraft manufacturing business. It is interested in buying some equipment used in making the Islander and the Trislander aircraft of the former Britten-Norman Company, which Faireys acquired in 1972.

The author is Northern Industrial Correspondent, "The Times".

Freedom of action behind success

by Ronald Kershaw

To the Northern Irish one of the most perplexing riddles must be how anybody with a modicum of industrial or commercial enterprise, after examining the varied array of grants, loans, rebates, employment premiums and the like, can possibly afford to stay out of Northern Ireland. To the outsider the wonder is why anybody with any ability in industry or commerce, after examining the benefits offered by the Northern Ireland Development Agency (NIDA) is not in business in the province.

NIDA came into being in May of last year. Its forerunner, the Northern Ireland Finance Association, was started in 1971 with the job of creating new industry and reorganizing companies in danger of closing. Unfortunately, NIDA's emphasis came to be mainly on the latter role.

The political difficulties of Northern Ireland were found to have a profound effect on service industry, leaving manufacturing industry almost untouched. It was the Government's intention to encourage the development of a heat pump. Mr Tony Hawkins, NIDA's finance director explains the bicycle project: "Early in 1976 we started researching marketing opportunities and

that all its projects would be run on strictly commercial social implications. Raleigh prices a high quality cycle which provided £50m to finance new manufacturing enterprise.

After some market research, frame and parts were made to the agency's specification. In the middle of last year NIDA authorized up to £1m to set up a manufacturing plant and the Viking Manufacturing Company was born.

Bicycle enthusiasts will recognize the old name and that alone has had a certain appeal to buyers. The plant is at Londonderry and is now turning out 50 cycles a day. Potentially there is work for 130 people: there are about 65 workers at present.

NIDA must be unique in its freedom of action and almost complete independence. It is true that the Government controls the supply of hard cash but the arrangement must be ideal for the entrepreneur to find an organization with £50m to spend, hard-headed business colleagues on the board and absence of politicians and civil servants. Perhaps this freedom is the reason for the agency's success. But credit cannot be wholly denied the politicians: they made the money available. Now to the civil servants: they, no doubt, did the sums in the first place.

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Life goes on under siege

Anybody who has the idea that because of the troubles Northern Ireland is some sort of economic desert can forget it. Trade and industry are very much alive and kicking in the province. These were the words of Mr. Don Concanon, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office with responsibility for commerce and manpower services, when he visited Sheffield earlier this year at the beginning of a trade promotion drive.

Nobody expects a Yorkshire-educated former miner to deliver anything other than a straight-from-the-shoulder observation, and Mr. Concanon never disappoints. In spearheading promotional operations the minister finds his initial and greatest difficulty is to persuade people that Belfast is not a modern version of Dodge City. "People visiting the province for the first time never cease to be amazed at the degree of normality they find there. They envisage a community under siege, but find to the remarkable extent that the people of the province go about their work and play very much as people in any other community in Great Britain," he observed.

Of course, Mr. Concanon acknowledges, the terrorists are there, but he maintains, "they are getting thinner on the ground."

Northern Ireland's record on manufacturing production was much last year it rose by 4 per cent compared with 2 per cent for the United Kingdom as a whole and in the 10-year period to 1975 the percentage increase was the same, double that of the British figure. Exports are running at £1,450m a year and rising, thanks to globe-trotting teams of ministers and officials. In the past few months trade missions have been organized to the Middle East, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Germany. A mission to Australasia is the sixth since 1969. Buyers from Mitsubishi, Japan's biggest department store group with a turnover of more than £1,000m a year, visited the province on a buying mission.

The Department of Commerce, the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Ireland Agricultural Trust, the British Overseas Trade Board as well as companies in their own right are promoting and selling as though their lives depend on it.

Wherever possible, ministers attend in support of trade missions. Mr. Concanon accompanied 14 Northern Ireland companies to Saudi Arabia earlier this year to boost sales and services to Middle East countries and, after a visit to the Heimtex trade fair at Frankfurt, Northern Ireland companies secured orders for domestic textiles, including linen goods and carpets, worth £12m and potential follow-up orders worth another £1.5m.

Mr. Concanon and his colleagues are setting a pace and workers and industry are responding. Success is hard won. Ulster manufacturers do not expect their goods to be bought out of public sympathy. "They must stand or fall on quality and their place in the league table of prices. Orders are the lifeblood of individual firms. But more than that, they are an important contribution towards the improvement of conditions in an area with its own special problems and a strong reward for people at all levels who have worked with tenacity and courage."

R.K.

Glass cuts unemployment

If you are fortunate enough or important enough to be invited in for a drink by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the odds are you will find yourself clutching one of the heaviest, most beautifully cut, lead crystal 12-ounce whiskey glasses it has ever been your pleasure to behold.

The purpose of this homily is not to observe the niceties of entertainment at Stormont Castle, or that Mr. Roy Mason knows a good thing when he sees one, but to draw attention to one of Northern Ireland's success stories in manpower. Two companies, Tyrone Crystal and Ulster Crystal (the products of both are to be found in the higher price brackets on Fifth Avenue) owe their early beginnings to the same concept of a scheme unique to Northern Ireland — the Integrated Workforce Unit.

The basic idea is to take about a dozen unemployed men with complementary abilities and train them in basic engineering skills so

that they may operate as a complete unit capable of commercial production. Employers are then invited to take the unit and integrate it into a labour force. Five units are in operation and nine are in training.

This is provided by the Manpower Services Department at one of the 14 Government Training Centres in the province and while the men are in training the department starts the hunt to place them. Many units have been successfully integrated since the scheme started about five years ago.

When the IWF scheme started it provided for training in basic engineering. The department points out that while it is true that much industrial activity is founded on engineering the concept of the IWF is such that it can be readily adapted to provide training and experience in a wide range of activities demanding a degree of skill. The primary aim, says the department, is to provide a base for local activity, with local investment in, and a

sense of identity with, the undertaking.

Although Ulster Crystal, the first of two companies to be formed, did not emerge directly from an IWF, the same concept was used by a Roman Catholic priest, Father Eustace, who established the firm at Andersonstown, one of the most difficult areas of Belfast.

Another major initiative in training aimed at youth unemployment was announced in June, the Youth Opportunities Programme. There were already 4,000 training and employment places for young people in Northern Ireland. The new scheme stepped this up to 6,000 "training, experience and employment" places.

The aim of the scheme is to channel young people into suitable permanent employment when it becomes available. There is also a Youth Employment Subsidy of £10 a week to encourage employers to take on young people.

R.K.

Stagnant UK economy blunts EEC benefits

by Robert Rodwell

From his 250 acres on the suburban fringes of Belfast Mr. Robin Morrow, a dairy farmer, looks down directly on to Stormont's Department of Agriculture a few hundred yards away. He hopes to see the midnight oil burning this month as ministers and officials get to grips with an impending blow to Northern Ireland's agriculture — the ending of the Government's milk price guarantees on December 31 when the transitional arrangements after the United Kingdom's entry to the EEC cease.

Unless the Government can find the money, will and room for manoeuvre within the Common Agricultural Policy Mr. Morrow and his Northern colleagues will, from January 1, receive several pence less on every gallon of milk they produce than their British counterparts.

Mr. Morrow, last year's president of the Ulster Farmers' Union, was confident that Northern Irish farmers would find a prosperous future inside Europe. But he now believes that the stagnant state of the United Kingdom's economy has totally blunted any positive benefits which EEC membership might otherwise have conferred.

He has felt only the drawbacks so far. Among these is the loss of North American grain imports on which Northern Ireland's intensive pig and poultry industries were based and on which, to a lesser extent, the cattle farmers also relied. The cheap North American cereals have been replaced by more expensive grains from within the Community, adding to producers' other disadvantages — transport costs to distant British markets and energy costs way above the average.

Now producing livestock, dairy foods and cash crops worth about £400m a year, Northern Ireland's 60,000 farmers and farm workers contribute more than 10 per cent of the working population. With another 15,000 in such ancillary industries as food processing, fer-

riers, agricultural engineering and supply, 14 per cent of the province's workers live off the land. Agriculture is thus by far the largest industry in the territory, where the EEC's CAP ceases to be merely a group of initial blurs in a potentially crucial factor in overall economic health.

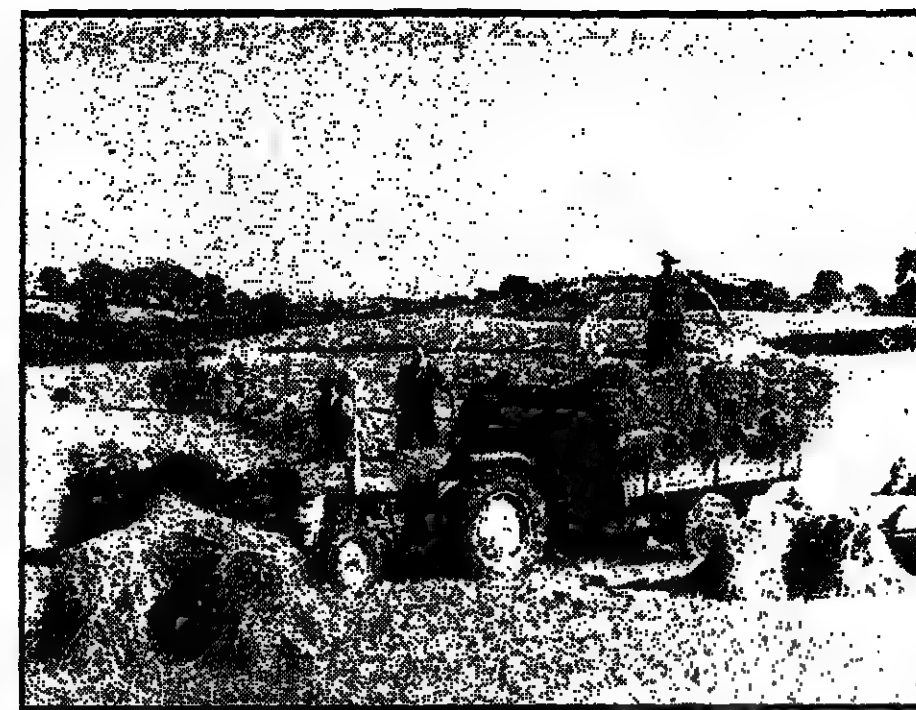
With more than 1,500,000 cattle the beef and dairy sectors are worth more than £200m annually and account for more than half the industry's total output. The dairy farmers' impending difficulties stem from the replacement of nationwide milk price guarantees by the EEC system of payments based on market returns.

British farmers sell nearly 60 per cent of their milk into the lucrative liquid trade but, with their lack of large metropolitan populations near by, Northern Ireland's milk producers sell only 23 per cent of their output on the liquid market. The rest goes for manufacture into butter, cheese or skimmed milk powder and commands a lower price.

Ideally, they want the Government to devalue the artificially high green pound which would lead to higher EEC intervention prices for butter, cheese and skimmed milk powder. But the new rules begin on January 1. But with the Government committed to continuing pay restraint and trying to hold its 10 per cent guideline rate the chances of such a devaluation, with an inflationary effect upon food prices in the shops, as very low.

An initial devaluation of perhaps 12½ per cent, with an indication of intent to devalue further, would meet their requirements. Instead, they expect the Government to offer a special compensatory scheme for Northern Ireland which would allow them to continue to export their surplus milk to the United Kingdom at a price below the EEC intervention price.

Northern Ireland's most abundant crop is lush grass. Less than a quarter of the land is tilled. Cereal cultivation — almost entirely for feeding one's own herd or flock or for sale to neighbouring farmers — is a fairly small beer. Although it is only a drop in the bucket of the province's overall consumption of feed grains, this



Since joining the Community Northern Ireland has lost the North American grain imports on which its intensive pig and poultry industries were based.

year's cereal harvest was excellent, up 25 per cent on last year's at 250,000 tonnes.

Bumper crops, however, can only marginally reduce the need to import cereals. The intensive pig and poultry sectors, both of which ship most of their output to Britain, slumped disastrously two or three years ago when Soviet purchases of North American grain surpluses pushed world prices through the roof.

Many pig and poultry producers left the business. The weekly delivery of pigs to the processing plants dropped to only 15,000 two years ago. The £50m a year industry has partially recovered and throughout is running at about 19,000 a week but it is still scarcely half the peak rate at the start of this decade. Eggs at about £33m in the last full year, bring nearly twice as much as poultry.

Farmers are playing an active role in developing new markets and lessening their dependence on British sales. Pig processors, including the Pigs Marketing Board, are touring Japan to develop pork product outlets there.

After the collapse of negotiations on a joint project with the Government's Northern Ireland Finance Corporation (now the NI De-

velopment Agency), the UFU has gone it alone with the formation of a members' marketing cooperative, Ulster Farmers' Investments.

This has raised more than £2m from beef and pig producers to buy a controlling share in one of the largest meat plants at Moy, co. Tyrone. The aim is for producers to control about 30 per cent of the industry either directly or in partnership with other firms. UFU's marketing organization is being set up to sell meat cut and processed to export customers' requirements — which are often radically different from standard United Kingdom practices.

A similar cooperative, Niles (NI Livestock Exports), has recently started to capitalize on the province's enviable high standards of animal health and develop exports of pedigree stock which are running at approximately £2m a year. With Northern Ireland and the republic forming a common veterinary health area, having no foot-and-mouth outbreak for more than 30 years and having almost eradicated brucellosis, breeders are able to sell livestock to many countries, including the United States, where even British beasts are banned.

A similar virus-free reputation is enjoyed by Northern Ireland's seed potatoes, more than half of them traditionally sold in the Mediterranean markets through a specialist marketing board.

Last year, the board's 2,000 registered producers shipped more than 80,000 tonnes and their output was worth about £19m, but present seed potato prices are running at less than a third of last year's record levels.

Producers of ware potatoes are similarly faced with a major slump in prices following this year's abundant crop. During Europe's last two years of drought, prices went sky high as British and continental buyers clamoured for Ulster's potatoes. During last year's boom, more than £170 a ton was reached.

This year about 25 per cent greater acreage was planted but, with only the local market interested again, prices are less than £20 a ton — lower than the production cost — and lots of fingers are being badly burnt. Mr. Frank Espley, a UFU official, expects the worst sufferers to be speculators who rented extra land under the Irish 11-month conscription system: the prudent farmer who spread his risks should be cushioned by his exceptional income of last year.

This season's broadest

smiles are being worn by the fruit growers in Armagh and south Tyrone. They escaped the blossom-time frosts which decimated this year's English apple crop. As a result there has been a rush of English buyers for apples to put into store.

More than half of Northern Ireland's 33,000 farms are less than viable one-man businesses, whose owners combine farming with a second job or are otherwise retired. A series of radical land Acts between 1870 and 1925 broke up the big estates and produced virtually 100 per cent owner-occupancy of Irish farmland. With normal land letting precluded, the conscription system evolved under which the elderly, widows or those not wishing actively to farm rent land seasonally to neighbours. Still widely used, the system permits farmers to expand their own holdings, to use high capacity machinery economically, and injects some flexibility into an otherwise rigid system of land tenure.

But, with the average farm less than half the British size, the province is ripe for the EEC's general policy of encouraging amalgamations into larger units, and phasing out the small farmers.

The Government has no specific policy to encourage such amalgamations, relying on economic imperatives to produce the same effect. Individual holdings decline steadily by several hundreds every year but Dr. James Young, permanent secretary of the Department of Agriculture, sees the present 13 per cent level of unemployment as a serious deterrent, stopping many people from leaving farming to move into other fields and thus inhibiting rationalization.

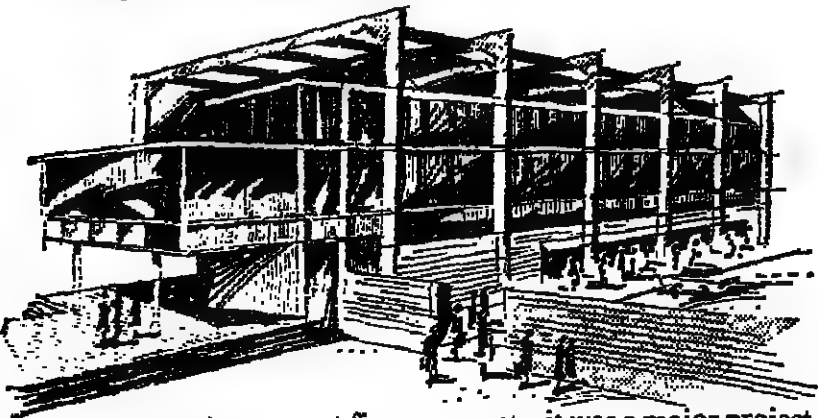
One last problem confronting sheep farmers is a vast and recent increase in sheep-worrying by dogs. Farmers are in uproar over packs of killer dogs roaming wild and causing annual losses of about 7,000 sheep — worth £220,000 or about 3 per cent of this sector's annual value. The Government declined to accept a draft Bill last year which provided for dog warden fees, a higher dog licence fee and increased fines on errant owners. Mr. James Dunn, Northern Ireland Office junior minister for agriculture, felt that legislation should not be out of step with Britain in this controversial area.

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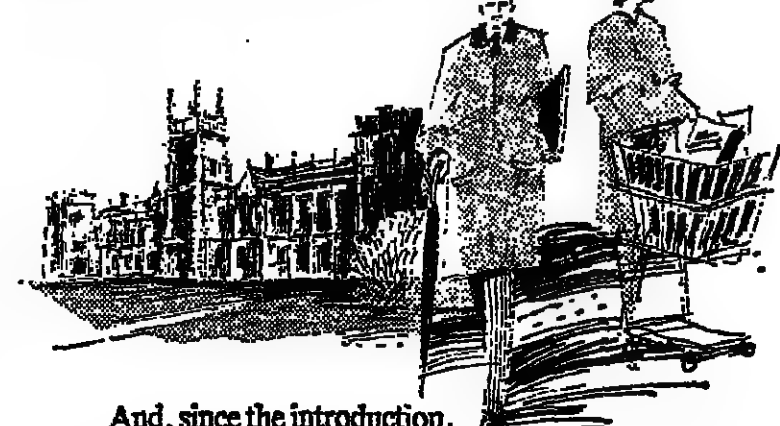
and around Belfast.

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of new rolling stock has been another feature of our investment plan, by early 1978, whatever train the businessman travels on will either be brand new or completely refurbished.

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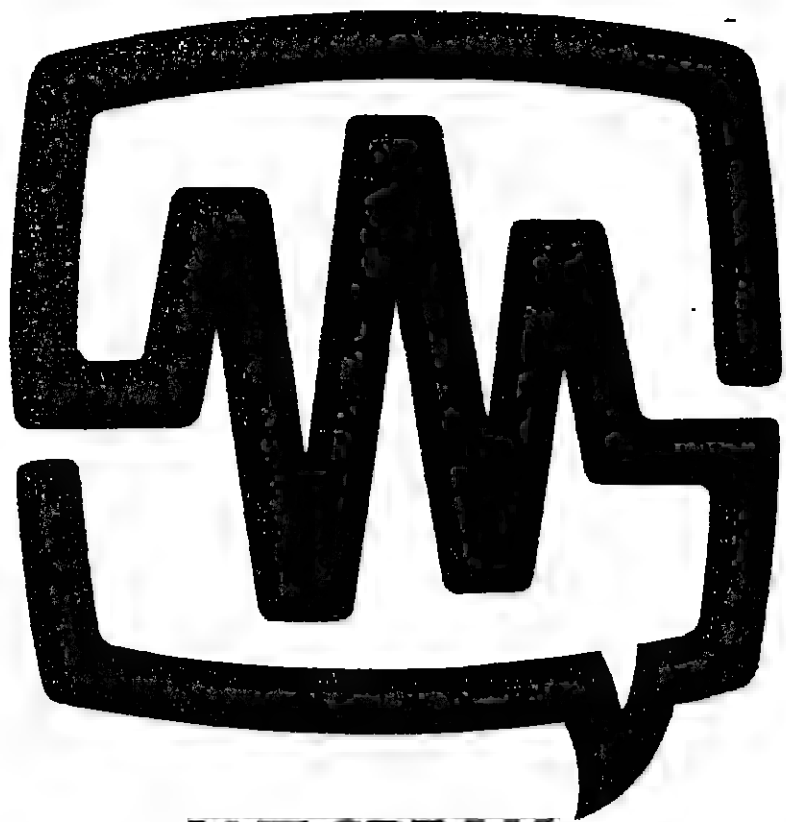
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Financial confidence feeds on economic progress

by Ronald Pullen

Without the stable backdrop to be able to assess risks and quantify uncertainty with at least a reasonable degree of accuracy, the grey line that invariably exists both in the banking and insurance industries between excessive caution and imprudence stands in danger of being erased altogether.

Northern Ireland's history of civil disorder for the past nine years is just the kind of exogenous factor that might have been expected either to bring the banks and insurance companies to a halt, prepared only to countenance safe and routine business, or to force them into areas that could have led to disaster.

Even the most cursory look at Northern Ireland's commercial life shows that neither has happened. But there is no gainsaying the fact that security problems have been a serious handicap to the development of banking and insurance, especially in the early 1970s when the number of incidents was especially high.

Resilience is one of the words you hear continually in Northern Ireland, and in few areas is this more relevant than in banking and insurance where the companies have come to terms with the difficult working conditions. Moreover, over the past year or so, a new-found confidence appears to be circulating through the financial sector about its longer term future.

Part of the reason for this turn of events may be nothing more, according to

some business leaders in the province, than that violence and disorder have become so institutionalized that banks, insurance companies, even industry generally, has not only learned to live with the difficulties but have developed a framework to mitigate the worst consequences.

More fundamental though, is that whatever political stresses there have been, economic progress has been fairly rapid—with growth well up to that achieved in many other industrialized countries and at times about twice as fast as the rest of the United Kingdom.

In that sort of bothworld, there is no way that financial institutions can afford to take a back seat without finding their long-term position usurped.

True, as the Quigley report emphasized a year ago, the economy may have stalled for the moment—and long-term capital investment has certainly been deterred by the troubles—but the developing economy demands much of its financial sector and in Northern Ireland the banks and insurance companies have simply had to move in tandem with the rest of the economy to survive.

This is particularly the case when much of the industry there consists of outposts of the big multinational groups which require more and more advanced financial services.

Even with the poor underlying position in the economy over the last year or so, the banking sector has made good progress. According to the latest Bank

of England figures, advances by Northern Ireland banks rose by a half to £451m in 18 months to May, roughly three times faster than the London clearing banks.

Admittedly, those figures have been somewhat complicated by the Irish bank strike and preliminary figures since July suggest some slowing. But the underlying trend has been upward and most of the increase has gone to manufacturing and other productive sectors like agriculture and construction rather than personal spending.

Officially, the Northern Ireland banking system is no more than a segment of the whole United Kingdom system with exactly the same liquidity and reserve ratio requirements. Separate figures have been kept since 1966 but the four big banks do have the right to issue their own notes. Nevertheless it is not always subject to the same clamp-down as the rest of the United Kingdom banking system. Northern Ireland banks were not restricted last year in their lending freedom by the introduction of the Bank of England's "corset" scheme.

Interest rates, however, reflect those in London with the main Northern Ireland banks tying their base rates to the London clearing banks. Thanks to the British Government's compensation scheme for civil disorder damage, the banks rarely find it necessary to charge customers a higher rate simply because they live in a particularly vulnerable location.

Indeed, some bankers say that because they feel social obligation they may now make on lenders who would have got short shrift in earlier times.

As compensation under the government scheme can take some time coming through, the banks have found themselves increasingly in the usually lucrative area of bridging loans.

As for lending to industry, the Northern Ireland banks do not appear to have suffered unduly at the hands of the United States banks which have set up there to service the large multinational groups like Dupont and Grunig. Medium-term lending is increasing, corporate finance work (partly because the big London-based merchant banks are too far away) while new areas such as industrial hire purchase, leasing and factoring have all become a more important part of the banking business.

Paradoxically, the troubles in Northern Ireland may also have had a silver lining for the banks. People have become increasingly security conscious and in what has been regarded as a fairly unsophisticated area financially, the number of bank accounts has been growing steadily since the early 1970s.

The banks themselves have also made rapid progress towards computerization and automation—customer records are now by and large kept centrally to prevent branch records being irretrievably lost as a result of a terrorist attack. Staff security still poses a

serious problem for the banks, especially the possible abduction of branch managers. But after a bad patch in the early 1970s the incidence of bank raids is apparently no worse than anywhere in the United Kingdom although management have been forced to spend a lot more time and effort on preventive security.

Undoubtedly, too, the banks have been nervous about extending their branch networks in rural areas in particular. Mr Tom Bryans, chief general manager of the Trustee Savings Bank in London, but for many years in charge of the important TSB presence in Northern Ireland, admits that the troubles there have stunted TSB plans for a bigger branch network.

Nevertheless, the TSB has made rapid progress and now boasts 700,000 account holders, roughly half the total population. The bulk of these are fairly small accounts and in terms of total deposits the TSBs cannot match the big banks—Ulster Bank, a National Westminster subsidiary; Northern Bank, Midland's operation in the province; and the two Dublin-based banks, the Bank of Ireland and Allied Irish Bank.

The insurance industry has survived the difficult operating conditions "remarkably well", in the words of one leading broker. Undoubtedly the worst problems have been eased by the Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Act which pays for a large part of terrorist injury to people and damage to property. Although claims

can take some time in being paid, the system works with a good deal less fuss than might be expected and often the insurance companies pay up ahead of payment from the Government to ease customers' financial difficulties.

One of the main difficulties of Northern Ireland's brokers, who include subsidiaries of such leading London concerns as Bowring and Willis Faber & Dumas, lies in placing business in London, where underwriters have shunned the Northern Ireland market.

Leading composites like Royal Assurance and Commercial Union are unlikely to insure a new customer who has set up a factory in Northern Ireland though they will invariably extend cover to existing customers. Otherwise, insurance premiums tend to be high in high-risk areas such as money transmission (not covered under the Government compensation scheme) where rates can be three times higher than in the United Kingdom, and house contents insurance.

Coverage is also the highest in the United Kingdom, partly because of low driving standards, but also because cars tend to be stolen for use as barricades in riots. So far only one group—the Clerical subsidiary of the United States Security group—has actually pulled out of Northern Ireland, mainly because it was heavily involved in the high-risk minicab trade in Belfast.

The author is Banking Correspondent, The Times.

Educationists draw up their battle-lines

by Diana Geddes

Northern Ireland is watching closely the vicissitudes of comprehensive reorganization in England and Wales. Those in favour of the Government's decision, announced in June, to introduce comprehensive schooling in the province, are anxious to learn from England's mistakes; while those who are opposed jump on every reported failure, real or imagined, of English education.

The attitude of Father McCaughan, vice-chairman of the Belfast Education and Library Board, roughly equivalent to an English local education authority, is fairly typical of many people in the province: "Like everyone else we are keeping our heads down and waiting to see what happens", he says.

There is a fear of changing schools, that seems to be working fairly well for something that, judging from across the water, does not seem to be working terribly well. While examination results do not necessarily relate to the quality of education, it is worth noting that more

than four fifths of pupils in England and Wales leave school with at least one graded CSE or GCE examination result compared with three fifths in Northern Ireland.

The recent cry of Mr St John-Stevens, Conservative spokesman on education, to local education authorities to remain their remaining grammar schools because help was coming, perhaps brought joy to the hearts of many of the 79 grammar schools and their 48,000 pupils (representing a third of the secondary school population) in Northern Ireland which now face reorganization.

Northern Ireland's grammar schools are probably even more historical than those in England and they might prove more difficult to uproot. Unlike England, the province has hardly any private-independent schools. But parents who are well off and whose children fail the 11-plus examination can still send their children to the grammar school of their choice on payment of a fee.

All the grammar schools, about half of which are Catholic and half Protestant, are technically fee-paying. But in return for substantial

financial assistance from the Government, four fifths of the places are reserved for children who pass the 11-plus and they are automatically eligible for a state scholarship to cover full tuition fees which cost about £150 to £500 a year.

To try to abolish the grammar schools in Northern Ireland is similar to trying to abolish the grammar and independent schools in England in one go. The Roman Catholic Church is not happy about the possibility of mixing Catholic and Protestant children in school. The most recently published research asserts that 98 per cent of pupils and teachers are segregated by religion.

The whole of primary and secondary education in Northern Ireland is divided by religion. On the one side there are the controlled schools, originally founded by Protestant head or mill owners and run in conjunction with the local church.

In 1930 they were transferred to the state on condition that the transfer of the Protestant Church be entitled to at least half representation on the school governing bodies with the other half comprising equal numbers of parents and representatives of local education boards.

On the other side are the voluntary maintained schools which are nearly all Roman Catholic. After an agreement between the Department of Education and the Roman Catholic Church in 1968, the schools receive state grants to cover the cost of all their running and maintenance and 85 per cent of their capital expenditure.

Two thirds of the school governing bodies are appointed by the Roman Catholic Church. Pressure groups for integration, largely middle class, cite surveys which assert that two thirds of ordinary Catholics and a similar proportion of Protestants are in favour of integrated schools.

They criticize strongly the Government's consultation document on comprehensive reorganization for trying to remove social and intellectual divisions in the province without tackling the greater and related difficulty of religious and cultural divisions. A private members' Bill, backed by the movement, is

soon to be introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Dunleath. It provides for integrated schools to be set up where at least three quarters of the parents favour, or at least do not oppose, the proposal.

Church representation on a school's governing body would be reduced to a third, half Catholic and half Protestant, with another third for parents and the remaining third for representatives of the area education board. The Bill was introduced in the last parliamentary session and received a second reading before it ran out of time.

The Roman Catholic Church all over the world has always wanted to educate its own children. In Northern Ireland it does not seem to mind too much about Catholics going to state nurseries or to colleges of further and higher education. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, the Most Rev Dr Edward Daly, said earlier this year: "As bishop of this diocese, any effort to take over our schools will be resisted by me and I hope will have the support of the vast majority of the people in the diocese."

Lord Melchett, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, with responsibility for education and youth, might feel he has enough on his hands in trying to coax through comprehensive reorganization without trying to take on the Roman Catholic hierarchy as well. He has made it clear that while the Government is in favour of integration, it feels that it is not essential to reorganization and has no intention of forcing it.

Among five working parties set up by Lord Melchett to examine the question of reorganization, however, is one specifically on the participation of the voluntary schools which include the Catholic maintained schools and the grammar schools.

Another working party will look at the composition of school governing bodies. A third will study the curriculum, which is also sensitive, for Catholics. A fourth is examining the feasibility of separate, integrated

grated, sixth forms. The last is studying the administrative and legislative aspects of reorganization.

The five education and library boards have been asked to start drawing up plans for rebuilding secondary education in their areas. Lord Melchett says that the Government thinks it important to ensure that the plans are drawn up locally. The Government, he says, does not believe that there is any best method of organizing comprehensive schooling, nor any single best method of teaching or any single set curriculum. One of the lessons of England is that good comprehensive schools can emerge in many different types and sizes.

That insistence on making local decisions may be misleading for English readers familiar with the large degree of autonomy enjoyed by local education authorities. The area education boards, which replaced the former eight education committees under the Education and Libraries Acts of 1972, are financed wholly by the Department of Education and all their expenditure is subject to the department's approval.

The department also nominates three fifths of board members, the remaining two fifths consisting of local councillors. That means that there can be considerable central control of education, though in practice the boards have felt fairly free, until now.

The Government is now treading cautiously. Consultations of all kinds are going on and no decisions have been set. Lord Melchett talks soothingly of change taking place "through evolution not revolution". Getting reorganization right was more important than doing it quickly. Nevertheless, he says: "It would be undesirable for the process to be drawn out for an unnecessarily lengthy period of time." If the area boards drag their feet too much, the whip is close at hand, unlike the position in England.

The author is Education Correspondent, The Times.

How do they stick it?

by Christopher Walker

As every full-time correspondent in Northern Ireland over the past eight violent years knows, one of the most frequent and infuriating questions asked by friends and acquaintances on return visits home is always: "How do you stick it?"

The answer probably lies in admiration for the resilience and humour of the local people combined with fascination, verging on addiction for their seemingly insoluble problems. But in addition there are many different aspects of Ulster's life and environment which remain attractive and quite distinctive from those in the rest of Britain. To assist any potential visitor who may only have heard the worst, I have compiled a short and deliberately subjective list of some of the places and things to be enjoyed.

First there are the restaurants and hotels. Even before the bombers began to wreak havoc, Northern Ireland's reputation for cooking had never been high, but much emphasis is laid on quantity rather than quality. Although the number of establishments has probably dropped in recent years, standards in those that remain have improved considerably.

Belfast itself has little to offer, although a new venture has recently got under way to revive the oyster bar which was always a welcome feature of the city centre. This has recently reopened in company with a cheerful luncheonette bistro in the premises of the Chester

Bar in Chichester Street, one of the oldest public houses in the city still standing.

The imaginative, scheming, indicative of recent improvements in security, is the responsibility of the most energetic couple involved in local catering, Denis and Margie Crawford. Together they also manage Blades, an elegant and civilised spot which moved three years ago from Co London Road to new premises in the peaceful market town of Comber. Specialties are local seafood and game and, for the benefit of the faint-hearted, they have not experienced so much as a bomb scare since the restaurant moved in 1974.

Hotels have suffered considerably more than restaurants from the terrorists, and more so than the Belfast area, which has been attacked on 29 occasions. However, the attentions of the Provisional IRA have ensured it a lasting reputation as an international landmark and one which is not deterred by the world's most official headquarters. The management also remains undeterred and plans are now well under way to re-open the Penthouse Nightclub on the twelfth floor, complete with hostesses.

Country hotels are far fewer and farther between than south of the border, but hard by the damage which violence has inflicted on the local tourist industry. One of the best is the friendly Antrim Arms, situated close to the sea in the small port of Ballycastle. A good base

for touring the spectacular coastline.

Second there is the countryside. This is one aspect of the province which has remained unscathed, and which continues to make any trip to Northern Ireland well worth while. There few visitors who do still brave the difficulties often emphasize the lack of traffic and fellow tourists which adds considerably to the natural beauty and makes traffic jams almost unheard of. At Helen's Bay, fresh air fields can find sea and beaches only 20 minutes from the upland Belfast backstreets.

Further afield, the Mourne Mountains remain an unbeatable attraction. Those not energetic enough for full-blooded climbing trips can take advantage of the wide range of walks provided in the impeccably administered Mullagh Forest Park at Newcastle.

Elsewhere in Co Down, Mount Stewart House, the National Trust's latest acquisition in Northern Ireland, will be well worth visiting when it reopens next season. Rooms, lake, and panoramic views over Strangford Lough, the gardens share many similarities with the subtropical vegetation of the upland Kerry on the southernmost tip of Ireland. Both are surrounded by the Gulf Stream.

Whatever else the crisis has done to Ulster, it has done nothing to diminish the range of local bread, which is unrivalled elsewhere in Britain or in the Irish Republic. Distilleries and bachel food fanatics was typical of the course

wherever leaves produced by White's Home Bakery in Belfast, and countless other sources big and small throughout the province. Other varieties readily available are soda bread (with or without fruit), potato and wheaten buns, farls, fry-breads and pan-fries. None of it is recommended for weight-watchers.

Culture is in depressingly short supply and therefore all the more welcome in the occasional oasis of sanity where it can still be found. Cinemas have recently become the latest target for IRA fire-bombers, but Belfast's Lyric Theatre continues to maintain a high standard despite obvious difficulties; among the plays planned for this season is a comedy about life in Europe written by Brendan Behan's brother, Dominic.

Almost unaccountably normal in the centre of the city is the Lanesborough Library, founded in 1788 and still run on private subscriptions by the industrious and admirably named Belfast Library Society for Promoting Knowledge. It occupies two spacious floors opposite the Town Hall, providing relaxed reading rooms, a wealth of local and national periodicals, and the atmosphere of a London club which has known slightly better days.

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Security forces may be getting the upper hand

by Henry Stanhope

In the autumn of 1974 a colonel in Belfast told me that he thought that the war against the IRA would be over by Christmas of that year. It was not an entirely rash boast in view of the jerky progress which had been made since Operation Motorman in the summer of 1972, towards the restoration of law and order in the Six Counties. But it is worth quoting here as a cautionary tale.

It is worth quoting now particularly because the security forces, after three more years of difficult and dangerous operations are once more in a position from which to lay the future with some confidence. No one in Belfast will subscribe to anything more heady than cautious optimism but, after a difficult year last year, more recent statistics show a rising level of attrition against the gunmen.

The pattern is not an even one. The number of explosions in the province until September 30 was only 204, against 606 during the same period in 1976, and the total of shooting incidents stood at 961 as opposed to 1,465. But the use of incendiaries by the IRA—or anyone else—had actually risen. As many as 179 had been successfully used, against 109 during the first nine months of 1976, and 222 had been neutralised in contrast to 58 last year.

More soldiers have been killed this year, both in the Army (13 against 10 last year) and the Ulster Defence Regiment (12 against eight). And 14 policemen have died—five fewer than in the same period last year, but not in itself a very significant fall.

On the other hand again, the toll among civilians is down from 201 to 61, and while such statistics provide only a very flimsy base for firm conclusions, they do suggest a continuing decline in the level of violence. The switch in emphasis from the large car bomb explosions to incendiaries, which are smaller, cheaper and easier to conceal, reflects the constraints under which the terrorists must now be operating.



Public relations, army-style, in a Belfast street.

It is already beginning to sound and look a slightly less embattled province—although the continuing incidence of murders and bombings makes even this cautious statement sound dangerously complacent. The paraphernalia of siege warfare in city centres will for some time yet distinguish life in Northern Ireland from that in any other part of Britain. It is stronger than it was, having quietly regrouped in the rear while the Army has occupied the front line. The criminal investigation department has, for example, been reorganised, with regional crime squads and a new intelligence section, and an increase in the number of anti-terrorist specialists.

Another reason is simply that the gunmen on both sides are gradually losing ground in the war of attrition which has been fought since Operation Motorman, when the Army established itself in the no-go areas, the fight for law and order has been a slow, grinding, wearing-down operation. There have been sudden advances and also setbacks—notably the 1975 ceasefire which allowed the IRA to regroup its battered forces. But gradually the security forces have made life increasingly difficult for the gunmen, de-

claring their more experienced leaders and disrupting their supply lines. Now the policy of attrition is beginning to pay off.

There has long been an argument in favour of the Army adopting a lower profile. Patrols have often seemed to present easy targets for IRA snipers, particularly at night, with the aim of the terrorists being to cause maximum damage to the rule of law must be represented by some sort of military presence in the absence of a strong and acceptable police force.

Moreover, patrolling soldiers have enabled the security authorities to maintain an intelligence profile of the areas they have covered. They have also established some sort of rapport, however slight, with the inhabitants.

This close intelligence profile of the province is also paying off in the form of the improved arrest rate of terrorists and the growing number of convictions in the courts—although there is still heavy reliance upon forensic evidence.

But there is also a growing disenchantment among Northern Ireland people with the aims of the terrorists. The peace movement has been significant not so much because of its achievements—although the impact upon romantic Irish-American members of the United States is considerable—as because of what it has represented.

With signs of a general desire now for a gradual return to normality, the re-armed police force should be able to take firmer control of all but the hardest of the hard-line areas.

There are 14,000 soldiers in Northern Ireland, including an estimated 60 to 80 members of the Special Air Service. Much as the Army would like to reduce this force so that it can repair its shattered training schedules, it would probably be a mistake to reduce it too dramatically. The level of violence has not fallen to such an extent that the police could manage without a strong military back-up. But the way ahead is at last discernible in the gloom.

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

Committed to Way Ahead plan

Some rapport with local people

Social services are under restraint

by Pat Healy

Northern Ireland has had more than its fair share of social problems since well before the present troubles added a new dimension of insecurity to young and old alike.

It was, and is, an area of extreme hardship for a frighteningly large proportion of its population, with poverty, poor housing, educational disadvantage and unemployment present to a much larger degree than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Paradoxically, the troubles have helped even though they have brought new problems with families uprooted from their former homes, children brought up in an atmosphere of violence at least in the large towns, and elderly people withdrawing more into themselves.

The troubles have had the effect of focusing attention on the degree of economic deprivation in Northern Ireland, which is arguably so high as to be intolerable even in a "peaceful" society.

A direct result is that the statutory social services are administered regionally, through combined health and social services boards, and are maintaining a higher growth rate than is possible in Britain. Though subject to economic constraints, no service has had to be cut back.

in Northern Ireland as has happened in Britain.

While British local authorities are having to keep to a maximum 2 per cent growth, and even that has been endangered by over-spending, in Northern Ireland the personal social services have a guaranteed growth rate of 4 per cent up to 1980.

But the social services began to develop in 1973 from a much lower base than in Britain which had already enjoyed two years of fast development after reorganisation. And, in spite of the widespread view in Northern Ireland that money is not a real obstacle to developing services, the rate of growth has been slowed by the general need to constrain expenditure.

That is regrettable when Northern Ireland is clearly behind Britain in some of its social services, particularly in relation to children.

There are only four day nurseries for children under five in Northern Ireland, all of them in the eastern area which includes Greater Belfast. The number of places they provide is only 9 per 10,000 children under five, a tiny proportion compared with England which has 169 places per 10,000 children and even that is widely acknowledged as meeting only a fraction of the need.

The number of registered childminders is also well below the English total, and minders tend to be concentrated in the better areas, leaving the overcrowded centres of Belfast, Londonderry and Strabane with almost no officially approved minders to turn to.

The number of pre-school playgroups does not fall quite so far behind, but they still provide for only half the proportion of under-fives as in England. The one area where Northern Ireland is ahead in providing for under-fives is in education, not social services. Nearly twice as many children start school at four in Northern Ireland as in England.

Both the plight of the under-fives, particularly in the inner city areas, and the recognition that treatment for children in trouble needs overhaul have led to recent government initiatives. In July, Lord Mather, Minister of State, published a discussion paper on the under-fives in which he called for ideas to achieve rapid progress, and a month earlier the Black Committee published a consultative document on legislation and services for children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The latter has focused a great deal of attention on the plight of children in trouble in Northern Ireland where, although delinquency is only half the rate in Britain, non-offenders are much more likely to end up being sent away from home.

Comments on the Black report are still being sought,

but there is now a much greater commitment among Northern Ireland professionals to the idea that children in trouble should be treated rather than punished. The first experimental centre to try to put the principle into practice in Northern Ireland opened in Dunsurry on October 1 and is now dealing with eight boys who had appeared in court. Before Whitefield House opened, the eight boys would have gone to a residential assessment centre away from their homes; now they are attending in the centre each day from their homes, and their parents are being involved directly in deciding how they should be dealt with.

While Whitefield House offers hope that social services in Northern Ireland are developing in more liberal ways, there is little indication of movement in another area which seriously affects the civil liberties of the poor. Because of the high unemployment and low wages prevalent there, Northern Ireland takes a proportionately higher share of the total social security budget of the United Kingdom than its population would indicate.

But, alone in the United Kingdom, social security claimants can have their benefits unilaterally reduced to pay for public debts like rent, rates, gas and electricity bills. The author is Social Services Correspondent, The Times.

Some fishing is complimentary

by John Chartres

One of the most engaging of the many statistical calculations provided for journalists visiting Northern Ireland is that there is one foot of fish for every three feet of water.

Whatever one's particular bent in the wide scope of fishing as a recreation—course, game or sea—there are vast amounts of the right sort of water, all of it heavily populated below the surface most of it lightly populated by fishermen around the banks and shores. None of it is measurably polluted.

All forms of fishing are cheap for participants. It is free, of course, anywhere on the sea with steadily increasing fleets of boats for hire available around the 300-mile coastline.

Most of the inland waters have been controlled by the Department of Agriculture for the past 10 years and about 60 lochs and river waters can be fished by arrangement for about £6 a season. The department was charged under a 1966 Act with "acquiring and developing inland waters in Northern Ireland for angling".

There are still some so-called "free-fishing" areas where normally only the riparian owner's permission is required, and is usually generously given provided the countryside is respected. Licence and permit requirements vary slightly from area to area and are subject to annual changes in cost but a rough guide is that a game fishing permit for salmon and trout costs

about £250 for two weeks and the accompanying rod licence £2.

For other fresh water fishing a Department of Agriculture permit costs 50p a year and a rod licence 70p.

Because the department acknowledges that boys—and many girls—love fishing but seldom have much money, young people under 16 are allowed to fish many waters without permits, naturally with the reservation that they do not take salmon or sea trout without the necessary papers.

The bream, roach and pike on water like the Erne have grown untroubled and to great size. There is no close season for coarse fishing.

A little commercial netting for pike is now permitted under closely controlled conditions since a ready market is being found for it on the Continent. Eel trapping has always been a small but important feature of the Northern Ireland economy.

On the sea, it is claimed that at least 24 varieties can be caught from the Atlantic on the west to the Irish Sea on the east. In the many almost land-locked estuaries which share the title "lochs" with the inland lakes, fish from sole to shark are to be found. Tope of 50lb or so are regarded as women's sport on Strangford Lough.

The potential of the coast near the Giant's Causeway to the north has only recently been exploited with 10lb bass frequently taken and nesu of congers known about.

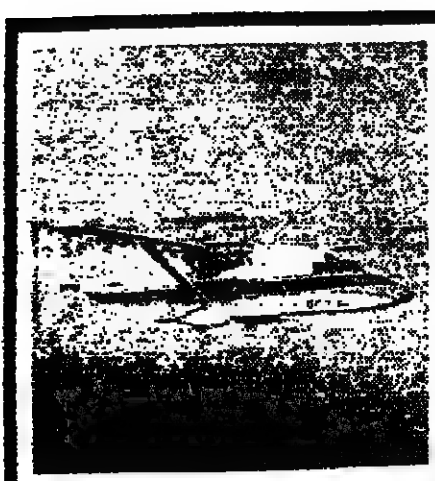
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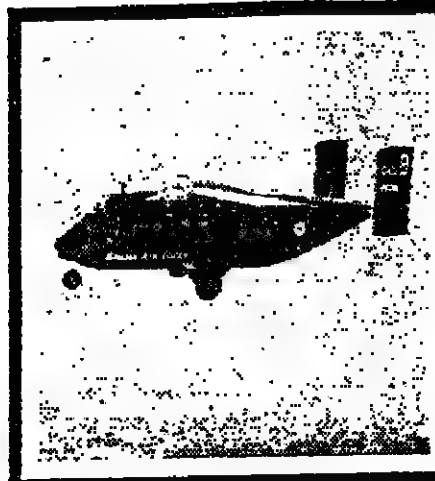
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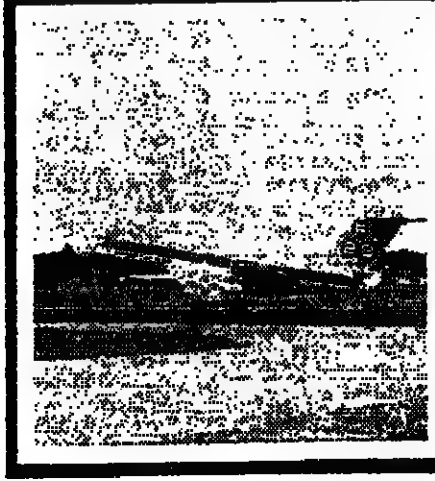
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by Alan Watson

It is not easy for public transport to make a profit in Northern Ireland. The financial performance of the bus companies reflects a considerable achievement for a service faced with hard times and frequent contact with terrorism.

Citybus, which runs a service in Belfast, lost about 20 per cent of its fleet in the year up to last April. Nearly 70 buses went up in smoke. Compensation for a loss like that cannot hope to match the purchase price of new vehicles and yet for the first time since the company took over from the old Belfast Corporation transport department four years ago it made a pre-tax profit.

Beyond the city boundary Ulsterbus, a sister company, managed to complete a decade of trading in which it consistently made a surplus, something rare in public transport in the United Kingdom.

More than 120 buses were destroyed in 1976-77, placing a great burden on a hard-pressed management and bringing staff face-to-face with violence.

Both bus companies, as

well as the railways and Aldergrove airport, operate as limited subsidiary companies under the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company. Though in the public sector their style is that of private enterprise. In a review of the last trading year the chairman, Mr Robert Rolston, summed up their performance as "achievement in adversity".

Another side-effect of civil unrest, which has siphoned off as much as 40 per cent of Belfast's bus trade on the more profitable routes, is the operation of hundreds of taxis, mostly second-hand London cabs, which exist with the approval of the so-called paramilitary groups and with what the authorities regard as inadequate insurance and frequent over-crowding.

Mr Derek Cheatley, chief executive of the Transport Holding Co, estimates that the taxis are taking more than £1m a year on three main routes, which include the strongly republican Falls Road and the loyalist Shankill Road.

Despite those hardships the public purse gives £1m to keep the wheels turning. Last year the amount of money granted to passenger transport was £6 a head of the population as against £13 a head in Britain.

Northern Ireland Railways is still losing money, but it has been building for the future with the introduction of a new central Belfast line connecting major commuter services, and with the opening of the new Belfast Central Station.

The company is now fighting for a further link between that station and the line to Larne, Co Antrim, a move which would connect the entire network. It would involve a new railway bridge over the River Lagan and, though the Department of the Environment has given little consideration to the idea, it was recently described as "a live issue" by the inspector at the public inquiry into city transport.

Increased use of the railways, however, has not been the once great plan for the city's urban motorways was scrapped some years ago, the environment department

has presented Belfast with three choices.

One is that resources should be concentrated on public transport; another takes the opposite approach and lays the emphasis on building roads. The department has chosen the middle path by backing the third proposal which provides for a new road bridge over the Lagan, a link road between the two motorways into the city and an inner ring road as well as a moderate improvement in public transport.

The shopping precincts of Belfast are free of traffic for reasons of security, leaving only a series of narrow corridors around the city centre. Industry and commerce are anxious that the link should be built between the M1 and M2 to keep the remaining roads free from heavy cross-town traffic. Access to the port of Belfast is one of their concerns. Though many of Northern Ireland's roads are unclassified and serve scattered country areas, a lot of them have been reconstructed and improved to European standards.

Despite Government spending cuts, the department has planned an extensive programme. In April this year it put development costs for the next two years at £24m with a further £20m to be released soon afterwards.

Much of the road improvement to date has been designed to ease the flow of commercial traffic to the main ports. Besides Belfast the two ports capturing most of the cross-channel and international trade are Warrenton, in the south-east of the province, and Larne, half an hour's drive from Belfast.

A £4m investment in Warrenton has paid in much greater traffic in containers and general cargo and it appears that more space will be needed there to meet future demands.

Much attention has been paid to transport costs to and from the province, mainly because of price rises brought about by steep oil price increases. The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, in a recent survey, recognized freight transport costs as a worrying issue.

It found that the province was not bearing an unusually heavy burden of costs overall, in comparison to other peripheral areas of the United Kingdom. But it said that cross-channel costs

Buses on active service

on their own gave cause for concern.

A recent boost to freight services has come from British Airways Cargo. Mr Max Walker, its Northern Ireland manager, has found a healthy response to its handling of the smaller and more vulnerable consignments which manufacturers want to move in a hurry.

Evening positioning flights of a Trident aircraft from Belfast to Glasgow are now used as a cargo jet service. Its introduction has caused an immediate increase in capacity of 40,000 kg a week between Belfast and the rest of the United Kingdom.

A new route to North America, through Manchester airport and using an overnight road service, is now open to exporters. Cargo is carried on a recently introduced 747 aircraft. Freight loaded in Belfast can now be put on pallets and left undisturbed until it reaches its overseas destination.

For Ulster people who want to travel to Britain by the only speedy way, air fares are a sore point. British Airways has recently been given permission to raise the Belfast-Heathrow return to £60, £1 dearer than Laker's London to New York one-way Skytrain ticket.

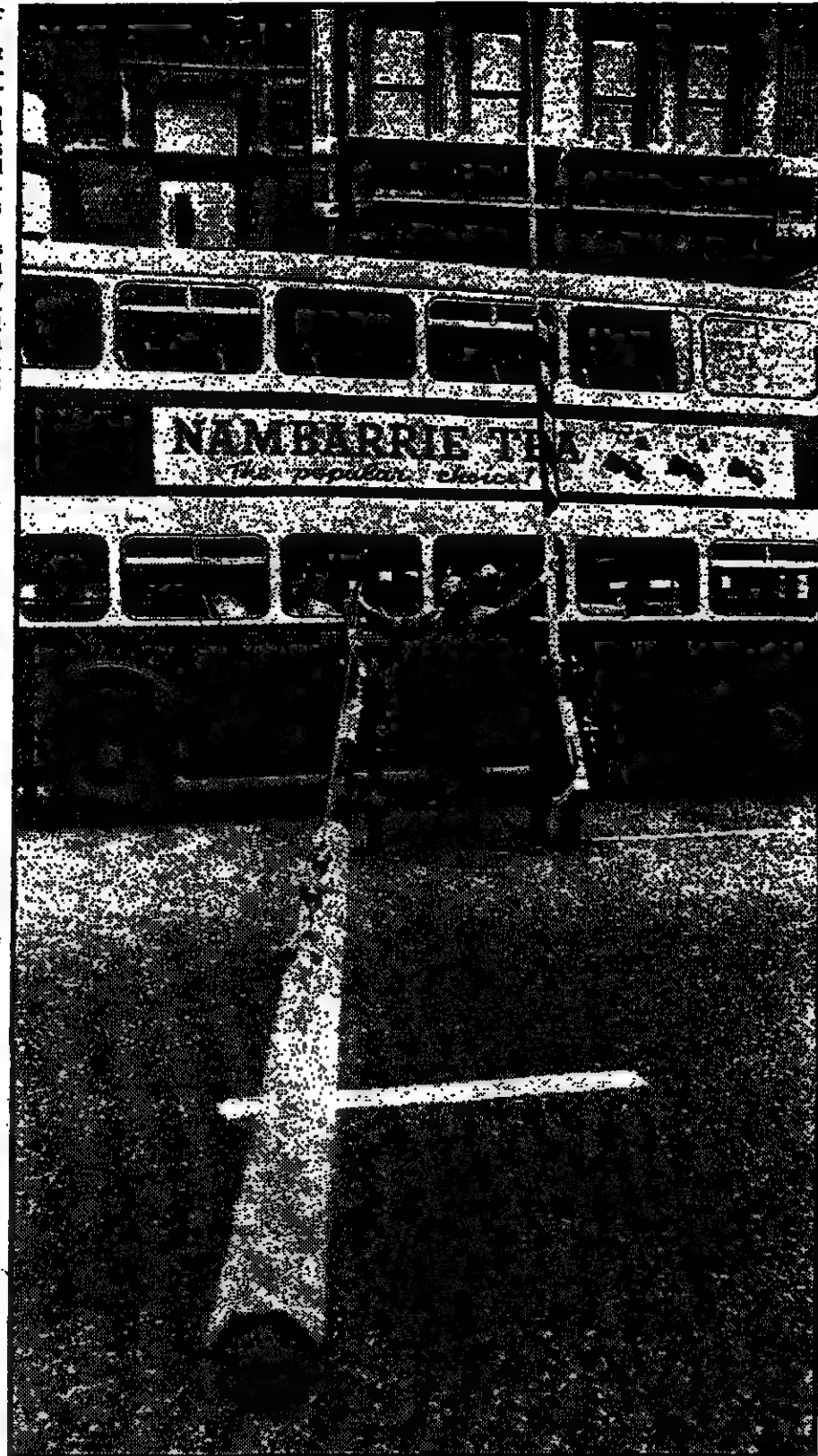
The introduction in April of a two-hourly shuttle service on the Heathrow route, on the same basis as the Glasgow and Edinburgh shuttles, was a bold step by British Airways in the face of declining numbers of passengers.

But because of the Heathrow, engineers strike and last the action by air traffic control assistants, as well as a reduction in the Trident III fleet, because of repairs to cracked wings, the service has had little opportunity to prove itself.

In the two months it did fly without trouble, British Airways says the number of passengers rose by 10 per cent.

An increasing share of the London market is going to the rival British Midland Airways which now has a cheaper DC9 jet service to Gatwick. The competition on that route between the two capitals should help to keep both airlines alert, but it cannot, unfortunately, reduce the cost to the public.

The author is Industrial Correspondent, Belfast Telegraph.



Barrier in Royal Avenue, Belfast. Buses are faced with hard economic times and frequent contact with terrorists.

Life-saving measure would be an imposition

by Marcel Berlins

The recent announcement that a law making the wearing of seat belts compulsory in Northern Ireland was to be introduced did not meet with the welcome that might have been expected for a potentially life-saving measure for the region with the second highest motorist death rate in Western Europe.

Much of the adverse comment was based on the apparent paradox that a law which has consistently failed to get through Westminster can, according to its critics, be "imposed" on Northern Ireland. At the root of that objection is the process by which laws are now made for the province.

Since the British Government assumed direct rule after the collapse of the power-sharing executive in May, 1974, laws affecting Northern Ireland which used to be passed by Stormont are now made by Order in Council in Westminster. That procedure is widely unpopular in Northern Ireland itself, on the grounds that it gives little

opportunity for debate, and allows the British Government to make whatever laws it wants for the province, however unpopular they may be. That reasoning, although exaggerated and to some extent misguided, is prevalent.

The anger at the Government's alleged forcing of seat-belt legislation on Northern Ireland is the opposite of the usual form of complaint. More often, the gripe is not so much that laws are imposed, but that insufficient laws are made, and that beneficial measures applying to the rest of the United Kingdom do not cover Northern Ireland, or are made to do so only years later. "The laws we don't want are pushed on to us, and those we do want reach us", a Belfast lawyer commented wryly.

Not all Northern Ireland laws are made by Orders in Council. Many Acts of Parliament passed in the normal way at Westminster apply to the province. Other laws relating specifically to Northern Ireland are debated in the House of Commons for example, last year's complex Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act.

Orders in Council are used to make laws in those areas where Stormont would have passed them, and many subjects were in any case not transferred to Stormont by the 1973 Northern Ireland Constitution Act (excluding defence, taxation, administration of justice, criminal law, immigration, and many others).

Criticism that the Government can impose laws on Northern Ireland is only valid to the extent that with a parliamentary majority, it can do so for the whole of the United Kingdom. There may not be the full and open debate which Stormont used to provide, but there is still considerable opportunity for consultation and for the people of the province to make their views known.

First, a proposal for a draft order is drawn up and circulated to all the political parties of Northern Ireland. On important issues, debate is invited on Bills and those invited, usually within a month, but longer for more complex proposals.

The proposal, and all reactions to it, is then debated by the Northern Ireland Committee of the House of Commons, made up of all 12 Northern Ireland MPs (who always attend meetings) and 20 from the other parties (who rarely do). The committee then recommends what amendments it thinks appropriate to the Northern Ireland Office, which then prepares the draft Order.

It is also true that the committee's views without being binding on the Government, are taken into account by the Minister in charge of the bill.

The recent law on compensation for criminal damage provides an example of substantial changes being made between the original proposal and the Order as finally drafted, after objections made during the consultation period.

The draft Order is then laid before Parliament, and has to be approved by it. On important issues, debate is invited on Bills and those invited, usually within a month, but longer for more complex proposals.

On the other hand, the discussion can take place in committee. The only procedural difference between debate on Bills and those on Orders is that the latter are incapable of having amendments proposed to them.

Last year, Northern Ireland's Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights was asked to report on the desirability of extending the divorce reform there, and at the same time, to give its opinion on whether the more liberal laws on homosexuality which apply in England could not also be extended

to Northern Ireland. In July this year, the Committee answered affirmatively on both issues, and proposals on both subjects are now in preparation.

It is true that there is a considerable time lag between a law being passed for England, and an Order in similar terms being made for Northern Ireland. It may be as much as two years. It is also true that the Northern Ireland Office sometimes takes a great deal of persuading that certain measures are desirable and ought to be made law. It is also not entirely satisfactory that debates on Northern Ireland Orders take place late in the evening, are limited in time, and are frequently exceptionally poorly attended.

All that does not justify the criticism that Northern Ireland is almost forgotten when laws about subjects other than terrorism are involved. Another comment accurately put it perhaps more accurately: "It's not that we're being totally neglected. They just take a long time getting round to us."

The author is Legal Correspondent, The Times.

Hospital in the battleground

by John Roper

In the past eight years the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, has had many honourable mentions in newspapers and on radio and television. Thousands of words have been written about how, as a teaching hospital happening to lie in one of the battlegrounds of Northern Ireland, its accident and casualty department has met and treated the victims of bombs, fires and guns.

It is not as well known that the members of its dedicated staff have, from skill and knowledge gained by hard experience, contributed thousands of words to medical, scientific and other journals to the benefit of what has become known as disaster planning.

The knowledge gained at the hospital about the results of violence, the differences in wounds and injuries caused, for example, by low and high velocity weapons; between those to victims of a bomb blast compared with injuries in high-speed motor accidents; about the psychological problems and the

suffering which follows the terrorist attack, is unparalleled in experience. It also includes knowledge of how to treat patients who have been tarred and feathered.

There are two categories of skill at the Royal Victoria. First, medical knowledge about the treatment of unusual injuries. Second, about the organization needed to deal effectively with large numbers of casualties often suffering from injuries not often seen in a hospital casualty department.

Between 1970 and 1975 30 papers on traumatic surgery were written by 17 doctors and published in medical journals. Two years ago the British Medical Journal produced a booklet, *Surgery of Violence*, which Sir Ian Fraser, the doyen of surgery in Northern Ireland, said represented just a little of the work done by the Royal Victoria Hospital doctors.

Much of the success achieved in dealing with casualties at the Royal Victoria is due to good organization. Dr William Rutherford, the consultant casualty surgeon, has addressed conferences on disaster planning in this country, Spain, Holland and Germany.

In the early days of the trouble in Northern Ireland it was quickly found that there must be strict control of volunteers who immediately wanted to help as large numbers of casualties began arriving. "Our central method was to get the right chiefs into position quickly."

Dr Rutherford said: "If too many people turned up it was difficult but we had to tell them to go away."

The command structure which has resulted, senior doctors, nurses and administrators working with Dr Rutherford, has found that there is great value in sticking to routine and working under stress, it was found people tended without think-

ing to do the same thing that they did every day.

If a disaster plan was drawn up with this in mind, it was likely to go smoothly. The more often procedures departed from daily routine, the more mistakes were likely: for instance, labels tied to patients' wrists were likely to cause more confusion, then help.

Sorting out patients on arrival had shown the benefit of a weeping room for the emotionally shocked but uninjured which should be useful to have a senior doctor to screen requests for X-rays, as that department tended to become a bottleneck when large numbers of injured patients arrived.

Documentation was of vital importance because safe blood transfusion depended on it. The hospital's routine case record was five sheets thick, made on self-copying paper, useful in a disaster.

Dr Rutherford says that he has read accounts of disaster rehearsals, with people lying on a football field pretending to be victims. He questioned their value because in a real disaster the main difficulty was the great strain under which everyone had to work. This was impossible to reproduce. But features of a hospital's disaster drill could be rehearsed and the most important was the call up of all doctors, nurses and administrators. Other sections of

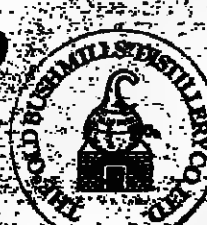
the plan which could be regularly rehearsed with advantage were preparation of lists of patients for a disaster, and the re-routing of patients so they left a department by one door only.

It is Dr Rutherford's personal conviction that while coordination has been achieved within hospitals much remains to be done outside them. No one in Britain had the single responsibility for making plans for a disaster. But in his view it was essential to have someone in charge, seeing that each separate service was doing its part in preparing plans.

The author is Health Services Correspondent, The Times.



'Old Bushmills' Whiskey



JPY 100 150

Tourist figures give modest boost

by John Chartres

The bulk of the tourists on the island in the last few days of October came from the north of England.

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English region which has almost totally deserted Northern Ireland as a holiday area has been the West Midlands after the Birmingham bomb atrocity.

American visitors, who used to number 80,000 a year, have dwindled to 17,000. Almost all of whom come to visit friends and relatives. A resumption of the beach parties of America, "going" both the Republic and Ulster will mark another important step forward to normality and there are some fairly sanguine hopes that this could begin next year.

A former minister of the old Stormont government once brought bowls of decision down on his head by saying a tourist was as likely to be harmed in a riot as in Belfast Royal Avenue.

But he was nearly right: only three cases involving tourists in injury have been recorded and it is not entirely certain that they were holidaymakers in the true sense. But there have not been all that many tourists in places like Belfast and Londonderry.

One group of British visitors who have seldom been detected from coming are the fishermen. It would obviously take more than a bomb or two to keep them away from the sort of hauls they can get in waters like the Erne.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has always recognised the dangers of maintaining the risks and has adopted a realistic policy "for the duration". It does not attempt any direct con-

siderable advertising, but sends missions abroad to talk to travel agents and to invite them and overseas travel writers to the province to make independent judgments.

This approach has been successful in Germany, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland.

The emphasis throughout the industry now is on the activity holiday, it being recognized that Ulster's traditional seaside resorts such as Portrush and Bangor have at best a limited appeal to outsiders.

Tourist figures, like many aspects of life in Northern Ireland are modestly encouraging. After the peak year of 1968 when more than a million visitors spent £20m, low ebb was reached in 1972 when 407,000 spent £15m. There was an improvement to 455,000 spending £22m in 1975, then another drop to 410,000 last year.

This last reversal can probably be put down to the general reduction in tourism throughout the United Kingdom as a result of economic difficulties.

The tourist industry is obviously trying to prepare itself for the very rapid expansion which should certainly come with a return to a reasonably long period of stability.

Such an expansion will not be easy to achieve. A significant paragraph in the tourist board's latest report says: "It is a fundamental fact that Northern Ireland could not reap the full tourist benefits from an improvement in the civil situa-

tion because there is just not sufficient bedroom capacity.

It takes at least 18 months for accommodation units to be developed from the first planning stages to the time of receiving the first guests, and so if there is to be any significant increase in our ability to cater for visitors by the early 1980s positive action has to be taken now, and necessarily this must be prompted and supported by government money.

In fact a new government package deal was announced in June which includes an increase in the grant levels to hotels, guest houses and boarding houses so that in future the amount of grant aid will be tied directly to the improvement or provision of bedroom accommodation.

The hotel grants scheme will also in future include self-catering establishments and new powers will enable the Department of Commerce to operate a special short-term repairs and renewals scheme.

One of the greatest attractions lies in its many small and medium-sized hotels in country districts, many of them converted stately homes of special charm. The large city hotels in Belfast and Londonderry have suffered badly in the troubles, with five being lost through bomb damage or sheer lack of business.

Last year the Department of Commerce paid out nearly £700,000 in grants for tourist amenities. The total amount was £314,000 in 1975 and only £187,000 in 1974—figures which indicate

a steady growth of confidence.

There can be few parts of the world, certainly few parts of heavily populated and industrialized Europe, which can offer more to the growing activity holiday market.

As one of the tourist board brochures aimed at the European market points out, there is almost every kind of outdoor activity, including fishing, golf, game shooting, riding, yachting, cruising, climbing and caving.

Although such places as the Antrim Glens and coast, the Mountains of Mourne and Giant's Causeway have their special charms, the opening up of Lough Erne waterway in co Fermanagh as a tourist attraction has been the really outstanding success story—and it has been a success in spite of the troubles.

This stretch of 57 sq miles of water, containing 154 islands was almost unknown, even to most Ulstermen, until the mid-1960s when an Englishman, Mr Robert Ewart, who had long experience of the Norfolk Broads hire boat business, saw its possibilities.

One or two others spotted the potential at about the same time, oddly enough including a retired English naval officer and a time-expired British Army sergeant. Now there are six hire cruiser firms operating a fleet of 85 vessels (including Mr Ewart's own, and the area has justifiably become world famous for both coarse and game fishing.

Motor boat cruising on the

Lough Erne system has a special quality about it. The loch—or more accurately two lochs joined by the fascinating Narrows at Eamiskillen—is as safe as any stretch of water more than 4in deep can be, yet its very size and the complexity of the island geography make cruising on it feel truly adventurous.

One does not need any more nautical skill than an intelligent person can absorb in the training session which the boat hirers give, yet one obviously cannot fool about on such a stretch of water.

To say that the Erne system has been developed would create a totally wrong impression. One can still cruise all day without seeing more than one or two other craft; the landing jetties and lakeside villas have to be sought out with a chart and the excellent system of marker posts. Binoculars are a standard and necessary part of the hire boat's equipment. The cruises are also probably the cheapest in their class which can be hired by the week anywhere in the world.

There are many ways of travelling to Northern Ireland but any choice would be to drive the somewhat tortuous but scenically beautiful route to Loch Ryan in south-west Scotland, and make the two-hour sea crossing to either a British Rail Sealink or a Townsend ferry.

Both services are efficient, run with the minimum of fuss and formality and are relatively cheap, especially for a family with a car, which is essential if one is to enjoy Northern Ireland.

Motor boat cruising on the



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"The heart of Northern Ireland engineering"

Age at root of housing difficulties

by David Watson

Two startling official surveys by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which has been in charge of all public authority housing for almost five years, have revealed a picture of a million-pound problem that has been quietly building away below people's rafters since before the terrorist bombs began to demolish the cities in the present internecine conflict.

Of all the 455,000 homes in the province, 19.6 per cent were found to be structurally unfit—more than twice the percentage in a 1971 survey of England and Wales and at 1974 prices would have needed some £215m to repair.

A further 178-page household survey told a community already shocked by economic inflation and divided by gun rule on its streets that one family in three lived below the poverty line—478,570 people, including 191,040 children under the vulnerable age of 16 years.

Four families in ten live in what would be termed a council house in the rest of the United Kingdom, although local authorities have had housing and planning responsibilities taken away from them after political scandals over house allocations and allegations of gerrymandering.

It was not until 1956 that the first redevelopment areas were marked out in Belfast, although today's planners believe progress was slow. In 1963 a study of population trends was carried out by Sir Robert Matthew, a leading United Kingdom planning consultant, whose recommendation that a building stopline should be drawn around Belfast was

adopted by the now-defunct Unionist Government at Stormont. This also resulted in a programme of new town development in the east of Craigavon and enlarging Antrim and Ballymena.

Craigavon was declared Northern Ireland's first new town in 1965, when 6,000 acres of land was acquired by the Government. The idea was to encourage Belfast people to move from overspill areas to the new growth centre; a major inducement was the opening of the Goodyear tyre factory, providing many of the 6,000 jobs created there.

But, although 7,000 houses were erected, a 500-bed hospital built, along with community halls, neighbourhood centres and shops and 6,000 places provided in new schools, the concept of Ulster's "third city" has had only limited success.

"There has been a drop in population trends and a new housing drive announced for Belfast," a Department of the Environment official explained.

Despite this, planners still visualize a Craigavon with 85,000 residents by 1995. Sir Robert's investigation of a Belfast that was then flourishing forecast that the city's half-million population would rise to 700,000 by 1981 unless people were encouraged to move to growth centres. In 1971 the population almost hit that figure, but has declined to what is now 560,000.

Planners are now completely revising those earlier schemes to save a population said by one Northern Ireland Office minister to live in "some of the worst housing in Europe".

That battle is on, and there are problems, for 17 per cent of households are overcrowded and 35 per cent declared sub-standard.

The basic problem is that property is old. In Fermanagh 42 per cent of homes are over 50 years old, but no one did it. The result is that time has caught up on us.

Although there is now £130m available for the next five years, housing officials say it will take 10 years to achieve decent housing standards, and this will involve replacement or rehabilitation of perhaps half the city's housing stock.

Typical of Belfast's slum conditions are the thousands of back-to-back terrace houses that grew up as homes for mill workers in the industrial revolution. Most belonged to private landlords, and what rent restriction laws there were never repealed meant that, of more than 55,000 privately rented unfurnished households throughout Northern Ireland, 78 per cent pay less than £2 a week in rent and rates—figures unchanged since the First World War.

This low income for landlords means that for decades these thousands of homes have had little repair carried out and most lack basic amenities such as bathrooms and lavatories, and enough bedroom and kitchen space.

Now, many of these homes have been taken over by the housing executive, awaiting redevelopment or rehabilitation, and their rents have been frozen—often at about only 50p a week—until something is done. Soon the Government will legislate to end this system of controlled rents and, after April next year, hopes to see a start made on saving 20,000 of these homes which are believed to have a "good, long-term future".

Housing officials maintain that there is no shortage of homes for Protestants in Belfast, but in Catholic west Belfast the area is over-

crowded and it is here that many of the city's 4,000 squatters are found.

The answer to this particular crisis has been a controversial plan to build 2,000 homes in the green-field site at Poleglass, south-west of Belfast.

Keeping communities intact is now a major concern for planners and here new legislation means that self-help has started on rehabilitating aging property. Already more than two dozen voluntary housing associations have been registered to receive government funds to take over suitable property.

In the private sector, property is changing hands fast:

everyone now knows about it. The housing stock should have been sold and 30 per cent of all housing there was built before 1919.

About 25,000 applicants are on the executive's waiting list, and recent policy switches by the Department of the Environment have affected the way housing is being improved in Ulster.

The first move was to make more use of existing stock, by introduction of 75 per cent renovation grants which mean people can get as much as £4,350 for home conversion.

Encouragement was given to people to buy older stock and rescue it from possible decay, using the grants. Mortgage of up to 95 per cent are offered by the housing executive to those unable to obtain building society aid and so far officials have paid out over £30m in home loans. Mr James O'Hara, housing executive chairman, revealed last month that one mortgage in four now comes from his organization.

Today the main thrust is in rescuing Belfast from appalling slum housing and streets of bricked-up, abandoned houses, made all the worse because, apart from the middle class, most people live in sectarian areas—and even housing executive estates are either Protestant or Catholic. Only 48 per cent of the city's 123,000 houses are considered sound.

Some 30,000 houses in Belfast have been scheduled for redevelopment, but a senior planner admitted: "Lots of these houses have been acquired and are now being cleared and rebuilt, but we are 10 to 15 years behind England, although we think we have been able to learn from the mistakes made there."

"The inner city decay that

Sport proves itself above politics

by Malcolm Brodie

If a peace prize is ever awarded for sport, Northern Ireland must unquestionably qualify as its first recipient. Throughout eight years of civil strife and adversity the governing bodies and almost 400,000 participants, not to mention spectators, have carried on against almost insurmountable odds. Their courage, determination and resilience must be commended.

In those dark, frightening days when terrorism was at its peak, sport kept going in a manner which bewildered many. It crossed the divide, broke the barriers.

For only one season, 1972-73, it was not possible to stage European club soccer fixtures. International matches, however, had to be played away from home for four years. However, once the Yugoslavs ended the isolation in 1974, English, Welsh, Dutch and Icelandic sides followed immediately with appearances at Windsor Park, Belfast. The Irish Football Association's international headquarters.

Club teams such as PSV Eindhoven, Liverpool, Southampton, Juventus, Ajax, Partizan Belgrade, Standard Liege, and Feyenoord have all delighted the Northern Ireland spectator with their De-skill, artistry and clamour

and, frequently, creating a crowd-pulling propensity of about 30,000 even under floodlights. Not an incident sport revealed its desire to be dissociated from any form of politics.

Northern Ireland's Sports Council, whose first three-year term under the progressive, independent chairmanship of Colonel E. D. R. Shearer and, with the administrative acumen of its director Mr George Glasgow, has just ended, played a vital role in fostering and developing sport. It did more than that by giving youth an opportunity of experiencing healthy pursuits particularly in the so-called ghetto areas, and of realizing there is more to life than the bomb and the bullet.

Colonel Shearer, a former international soccer player and cricketer, aptly summed it up when he said: "Sport here is not divisive. It unites not only those of opposing politics but also those from every background and of different ages. Sport is a world of Christian names and it is a community too close-knit to make room easily for those who do not show a sincere interest."

It has been an amazing feat. During three years capital works worth £6m have been completed, capital grants paid by the Department of Education rose



John Watson, the racing driver: one of many successful people in sport.

from £1m in 1973-74 to almost £4m in 1976-77 while, during the same period, payments to voluntary sports organizations increased from £40,000 to £140,000 a year.

Cold statistics do not tell the entire story. Anyone living in the rest of the United Kingdom or indeed any part of the world and forming an opinion of Northern Ireland through a diet of newspaper reading and television viewing with its concentration on violence must be astonished when he finds that an estimated 150,000 adults alone are affiliated to sports organizations, with 80 governing bodies controlling it all. The

province, too, can boast 5,000 clubs with 30,000 voluntary workers and, what is more, membership steadily increases.

Sport in Northern Ireland, including the schools, according to official figures, has risen overall by 22 per cent in the five years up to 1975—indoor sport 24 per cent, outdoor 12 per cent.

It is a nation, too, which has provided many of the renowned, highly successful personalities: George Best, John Watson, Paddy Hopkirk, Mike Gibson, Willie John McBride, Mike Bull, Alex Higgins, and Mary Peters, pentathlon winner at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Mary Peters's achievement is immortalized now by a track constructed on the Queen's University playing fields at Upper Malone, Belfast. It was built by public subscription, by government aid and by the unstinting efforts of Mary and a fund-raising committee.

Today that track flourishes as a centre not primarily for the stars but for youth, irrespective of creed, colour or class. It is the real image of a country, symbol of a community in which almost all its members want only to live in peace and harmony.

The author is sports editor, Belfast Telegraph.

BOMBS, BRUTALITY AND BULLETS—THE POPULAR PICTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND! BUT THAT IS ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE STORY—THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE! FOR EXAMPLE, DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

★ Since our troubles began in 1969, 2.4 million people have travelled between Britain and Northern Ireland each year, and that some 600,000 of these journeys were made by bona fide visitors who stayed with us for more than 24 hours! We have also welcomed a further 150,000 staying visitors each year from the Irish Republic.

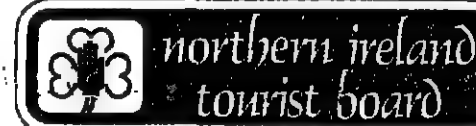
★ We are so well connected with Britain. No less than sixteen different air routes link our airport at Aldergrove (16 miles from Belfast) with major cities in the British Isles. Next to London Heathrow, more domestic scheduled air services fly into Aldergrove/Belfast than into any other airport in the U.K. And we have three modern sea ferry links: Larne/Cairnryan, Larne/Stranraer and Belfast/Liverpool. Last year, these ferries carried 1.3 million passengers, and 193,000 passenger-accompanied cars!

★ Motoring holidays are still a pleasure in Northern Ireland! There can be few other areas in Europe today where you can drive for miles and miles along excellent and scenic roads, without worrying about a press of other vehicles! And camping and caravanning facilities in our superb forest parks and along our beautiful coastline are really first class!

★ Each year we are welcoming increasing numbers of Swiss, Germans, Belgians and Dutch, most of whom claim that they come to us because of the peace and beauty of our countryside and waterways, and the lack of pollution and congestion!

★ We are welcoming increasing numbers of the coarse fishermen of Britain, as a result of the widespread news of great competition successes like the annual Benson & Hedges Fishing Festival, and the continuing evidence that we have perhaps the best coarse fishing waters in Western Europe! And we have very good game and sea fishing too!

★ For many years we have operated a statutory scheme for the annual registration and inspection of all accommodation and catering establishments, and a grading system is also in force. Precise information is therefore instantly available to answer enquiries, and to provide a basis for accurate planning and quality control.



We operate continuous surveys of passenger movements, domestic tourism and hotel occupancy, which give comprehensive and up-to-date statistics on travel and tourism.

★ During the six months season last year, average room occupancy in hotels was 35%, and in guest houses was 39%.

★ Northern Ireland would welcome investment in leisure facilities and new accommodation of all types. The following figures provide an indication of how we can help private investors (the rates of grant given are approximate—some are under review) —

HOTELS	up to 50% per bedroom unit
GUEST HOUSES	up to 50% per bedroom unit
SELF-CATERING UNITS	up to 50% per 4-bed unit
FARMHOUSES	up to 33% for alterations and improvements
HIRE CRUISERS	up to 33% for boats and bases
SEA ANGLING BOATS	up to 40% for boats and bases

NITE may also give discretionary grants on other private enterprise projects which contribute to the overall tourist attractions of the province.

AS VIOLENCE DIES DOWN, TOURISM WILL RECOVER. THE POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN THE TOURIST INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS EXCELLENT.

For information about investment grants for tourist projects in Northern Ireland write to —

CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
NORTHERN IRELAND TOURIST BOARD,
RIVER HOUSE,
48 HIGH STREET,
BELFAST BT1 2DS.

BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH BUSINESSMEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

On August 1 this year Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced new economic measures to encourage manufacturing and service industries to set up and expand in the Province.

The immediate benefits are a massive subsidy to reduce the cost of electricity, substantial increases in grants for building and equipping factories and generous financial aid for research and development work. Other existing grants and incentives have also been made more attractive.

BIGGER GRANTS FOR BUILDING

One of the most attractive incentives in Northern Ireland has been the building grants. At between 30% and 40%, according to area, they've been considerably higher than in any other UK region.

Now they are even further ahead. The minimum rate, without employment conditions, remains at 30% but the upper limit on the selective assistance rate has been increased to 50%.

LONGER RENT-FREE PERIODS FOR FACTORIES

For companies seeking to lease ready-built factories, Northern Ireland has been able to offer a choice free of rent for the first three years.

Now the rent-free period is extended to five years, which should allow tenants to become firmly established before having to cost rental against profitability.

BIGGER GRANTS FOR PLANT

Selective assistance grants for plant and machinery have also been running at between 30% and 40%. These, too, are now increased up to 50% with the minimum rate, with employment conditions, being maintained at 30%.

So, when the full value of tax concessions is taken into consideration, it can mean that the Government contributes up to 99.4% of initial plant costs.

UP TO £250,000 FOR R&D WORK

For the first time in Northern Ireland, grants are directly available for research and development work.

Similar to the grants already mentioned, they are offered at the new high rate of 40% to 50%. The limit for any one project is £250,000.

R&D grants can be applied for irrespective of whether or not the applicant has received other forms of grant assistance from Government here.

GREATER INTEREST RELIEF

For companies raising money from other than Government sources, Government assistance towards financing costs has been increased. The maximum period for the highest rate of Interest Relief Grant has gone up from two to three years and can still be followed by four years at 3% a year.

CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TOWARDS START-UP AND RUNNING COSTS

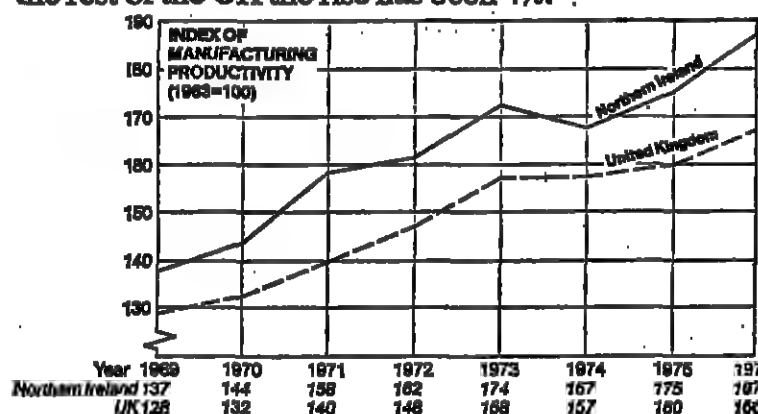
Northern Ireland is now the *only* region of the United Kingdom which provides assistance towards start up costs; additional grants designed to provide new projects with a substantial inflow of revenue during the build-up period — individually negotiated on the basis of total capital requirements for each new project. Northern Ireland is now also the *only*

region of the United Kingdom where manufacturers continue to be paid a Selective Employment Premium of £2 per week per adult worker and £1.20 per week per worker under 18 years of age.

HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY

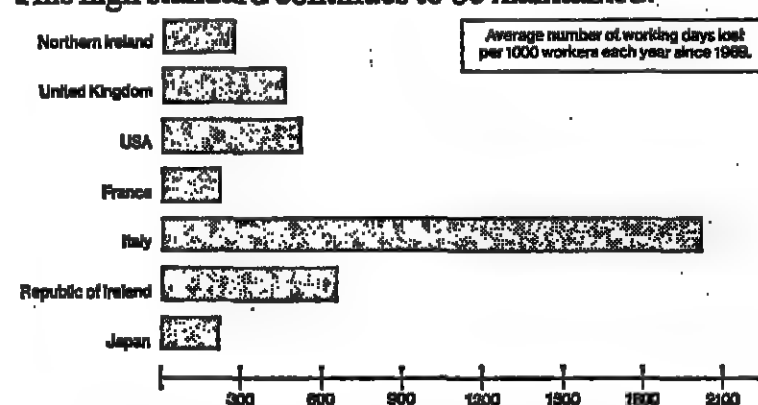
Since 1969 productivity has risen by 37% compared to the rest of the UK's 30%. See graph below.

Manufacturing output has risen by 14% while in the rest of the UK the rise has been 4%.



FEWER STRIKES

Northern Ireland has always had a good industrial relations record, as the bar chart below illustrates. This high standard continues to be maintained.



HOW GREAT IS THE RISK?

It's only natural for anyone coming to Northern Ireland to want to assess the risk.

Perhaps the simplest way to put this in perspective is to look at one straightforward comparison. The mortality rate due to the troubles in Northern Ireland from 1969 until end June of this year averaged 14 (civilian, Army and local security forces) per 100,000 of the population. This rate exactly equals Great Britain's fatal road accident rate which is currently running at 14 per 100,000. Equivalent rates on the Continent in 1975 were Sweden 15.3, France 23.5, the Netherlands 23.8, Italy 25.9 and West Germany 29.9.

The risk to security of investment is correspondingly low. Legislation in Northern Ireland provides for compensation for damage caused by malicious acts. This compensation takes account of the depreciated value of fixed assets before damage,

plus consequential loss of business profits. Subject to reinstatement of employment, compensation at full replacement value is payable on fixed assets — plus consequential loss.

CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD TO IGNORE NORTHERN IRELAND?

Manufacturers who in the past have tended to omit Northern Ireland from their location planning on grounds of isolation or of risk might now question whether, in fairness to their shareholders, they can any longer afford to do so. Particularly in view of the fact that industrial consumers in the Province are to enjoy cheaper electricity.

In recent years huge investment in plant and the oil price explosion forced the cost of electricity up at a higher rate in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain.

To reduce industrial tariffs the Government proposes to write off the majority of the Electricity Service's debt to the Government Loans Fund and to provide a grant of some £100 million, spread over the next five years. This should bring the cost of electricity down to the level of other UK Development Areas.

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TREMORS IN GERMANY

The West German Government has made a worthy but hopeless attempt to tell the story of the kidnapping of Dr Schleyer. After imposing an almost total black-out of information during the weeks of the events themselves, it presumably felt obliged to compensate, but when it faced the task it quickly found that many of the reasons for not talking at the time remain reasons for not talking now. The result is a long report with a lot of fascinating detail which tells little of substance that was not known already.

Frustrating but unavoidable. The German Government would obviously be wrong to give away details of manoeuvres which might be used again. It would be foolish to embarrass or alienate foreign governments by documenting what they did and did not do to help. It would be wrong to publish anything which might help the kidnappers to evade capture or which might prejudice their trial if they are captured.

This does not mean that the exercise was a complete waste of time. It tells what can be told; it conveys an idea of the complexities of the operation; and in a section on contacts with the prisoners it strengthens the evidence that they did indeed commit suicide. There has never been any convincing evidence that they were murdered, but a great many people outside Germany have shown a depressing eagerness to believe that they were. A final verdict must wait the results of the investigations, but so far every fact which emerges makes murder even less likely than it seemed at the time. This will make no impact on those who believe only what they want to believe, but it should at least remove some of the assurance from those people (includ-

ing many French intellectuals who have shown a surprising lack of intellectual rigour) who are excessively eager to believe whatever version of events brings most discredit on the German authorities.

Such people are probably few, but they are a cause for concern. In some countries they have demonstrated and attacked German property. They assiduously spread a misleadingly black picture of the state of German democracy. They make it more difficult for their own governments to provide the full international cooperation which is necessary in the fight against terrorism. And they provoke worry and resentment among Germans which could in the long run become damaging to the cohesion of Europe.

The West Germans are acutely conscious that they are still living with memories of the war, but they have worked hard for their internal and external rehabilitation and have devoted themselves more energetically than most of their critics to the European Community. If they come to feel that nothing they do is accounted right, that they are supporting a Europe which repays them by dislike, they could at some point turn sour and politicians ready to exploit that sourness would be at hand. The danger is still remote but it would be irresponsible to advance it.

The crisis puts additional burdens on West German politicians, who are watched not only at home, but also abroad. Most have risen to their responsibilities in recent weeks but the temptation to make political capital out of terrorism is still great. Probably the only fortunate aspect of the whole affair is that it was the *Land of Baden-Württemberg*, which is ruled by

Christian Democrats, which was responsible both for the inadequate protection of Dr Schleyer before his kidnapping, and for the administration of the prison in which the terrorists died. This has somewhat taken the wind out of the sails of right-wing politicians who had been accusing the Government of laxity.

But this by no means removes the issue from German politics. There is still the much broader argument whether a more rigorous ideological climate on top of more rigorous laws would encourage or discourage terrorism. The Christian Democrats are probably right to suggest that there have been shortcomings in the political education of the postwar generation. The real meaning of democracy and how it functions has not been fully brought home to many young Germans who anyway have understandable difficulties in identifying with a state formed out of only part of a country with broken history. But some of the answers proposed by more right-wing politicians could exacerbate the situation by promoting just those aspects of German society which already cause tension, such as a certain lack of tolerance for opposing views. If even the moderate left is unjustly branded—as it has been, by some politicians—as sympathetic to terrorism or to the feelings that lie behind it, West German society could be pushed towards greater antagonisms at the very moment when it most needs to overcome them. This could also have the effect of weakening the influence and commitment of those German left-wing intellectuals and politicians whose voices carry most weight among Germany's critics abroad.

Revaluation of sterling

From the Director-General of the Committee on Invisible Exports
Sir, The sharp rise in the pound is now seen as a potential threat to some British exports. But the Chancellor has one option available which he declined to use fully last week. He could decide to dismantle some of the exchange controls which have piled up from every earlier sterling crisis. These controls range from the 25 per cent surrender rule and other restrictions on portfolio investment (which inhibit the activities of the insurance companies, the Stock Exchange and the investment trusts) to the restrictions on third country sterling trade and on direct investment overseas. A decision to dismantle them would have three beneficial results:

- 1 It would help to curb the upward pressure on the pound and thus reduce some of the current anxieties in British manufacturing industry.
- 2 It would free several City markets and institutions from the restrictions imposed in earlier crises and would thus earn more "invisible" income.
- 3 It would enable British manufacturing industry to invest in success in overseas markets and sharpen Britain's export drive.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM M. CLARKE,
Director-General, Committee on Invisible Exports,
7th Floor,
The Stock Exchange, EC2.
November 1.

Guerrillas in Rhodesia

From the Bishop of Chelmsford
Sir, In his thoughtful letter printed in *The Times* of October 26 Mr Walter Salomon raises those who prepared the recent British Council of Churches report *Rhodesia Now: The Liberation of Zimbabwe* with regard to the guerrillas. But however distressing it may be for those of us who wish Rhodesia well, it is not muddled thinking to recognize reality.

The pamphlet is concerned with the situation in Rhodesia, not as it might have been. It does not advocate an armed struggle, but it does recognize its existence as a fact. The situation in Rhodesia is one of civil and military occupation by an illegal regime which has blocked every constitutional path to self-determination for its black subjects, thereby bringing upon them and, latterly, upon the white citizens of Rhodesia, great suffering. It is for this reason that we have caught up in the struggle for freedom from this regime.

To declare that oppressed people who seek to change their government by force are illegitimate is to give carte blanche to irresponsible tyrants wherever they are. To equate a majority seeking self-determination in Rhodesia with those recently active against the state in West Germany is to confuse two entirely different political situations.

The pamphlet carefully documents the development of the present situation from the United Nations Declaration of Independence in 1965 and pleads for the urgent transfer of power to the majority. It is only by the negotiation of this transfer that the nightmare of the period of the armed struggle can be brought to an end.

Yours truly,
JOHN CHELMSFORD,
Chairman of the Executive Committee,
British Council of Churches,
10 Eaton Road, SW1,
October 28.

Hanging the Turners

From the Chairman of the Turner Society
Sir, Exceedingly the Tate Trustees have rushed to the barricades to defend their treasure, as if the Turner Bequest really was their property, putting up a smoke screen of pseudo-scientific arguments and referring not at all to the generous and high view of our President, Henry Moore, and Lord Clark, set out in their recent letter in your columns (October 18).

To them, as to us, the point at issue is that a substantial part of the Turner Bequest, in search of a home for over a century, could so fittingly be shown to such advantage at Somerset House, in need of a role, to produce one of the most interesting and attractive galleries in London.

Any defects Somerset House may have as a gallery are more than compensated by its aesthetic and historic appeal and most of its technical deficiencies can be remedied, if not eliminated, by modern technology.

Perhaps, to spare the acroples of the Trustees, a slight amendment to the Tate Gallery Act 1954 might be the short answer, designed to prise this fabulous pearl from the Millbank matrix and place it at last in a fitting receptacle.
Yours truly,
ALLAN FRASER,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
October 31.

From Mr Humphrey Brooke
Sir, Hugh Casson's letter in your issue of November 1 is in answer to Mr Paul Overy's article on another page "Turners best seen by the score". Yet each of these authorities makes valid points.
What has been overlooked ever since it was first proposed to fill Somerset House with Turners is the fact that 70 years ago Sir J. J. Druce (the father of Lord Druce) defrayed the cost of adding nine galleries to the Tate for the specific purpose of displaying the Turner Bequest—so much for the notion that this great artist's wishes have been ignored.
It is good to know that supplementary space may soon be available in the adjacent Military Hospital. This will make the prospect of visitors having to trek to Somerset House even less agreeable.
Yours faithfully,
HUMPHREY BROOKE,
Deputy Keeper at the Tate,
i/c of the Turner Bequest 1946-49,
8 Pesham Crescent, SW7.

American withdrawal from the ILO

From Lord Noel-Baker

Sir, Your leading article today (November 2) makes an unwelcome case against the United States Government's decision to leave the ILO.

The decision is a break with United States traditional policy. The first conference of the Organization was held in Washington at the invitation of Woodrow Wilson. Much of its best work has been done under the guidance of United States citizens who served as Directors General.

When the first of these, John G. Winant, left Geneva to become United States wartime Ambassador to London, he told me that, in his belief, no institution in human history had done so much to improve the lives of so many hundreds of millions of men and women as the ILO.

It will certainly be a grievous loss to the United States that it will no longer be taking part in the ILO's magnificently successful work. The loss to the ILO will be mitigated by the fact that it will no longer have to tolerate the neo-Joseph McCarthyism of Mr Meany and those who share his views—views which constitute a formula for the suicide of the human race.

There remains the question of how the ILO should meet the serious financial loss of £11m a year which the United States decision will entail. When in 1920 the then United States Senate decided to leave the League of Nations, Britain and France agreed that they would nevertheless bring the League to life and make it succeed. They did so to such effect—thanks largely to the leadership of Lord (A. J.) Balfour, Lord (Robert) Cecil, Sir Austen Chamberlain, Sir James MacDonnell and Arthur Henderson—that within ten years the United States were taking part in ninety per cent of the international cooperative activities which the League organized; and they were paying the second largest contribution to its Budget, second only to the British Empire.

There can be no doubt that the United States will return to the ILO. In the meantime, the other members should do what Winston and Britain led the League to do in 1920: they should resolve not to reduce the important work with the Third World and others on which they are engaged, and not to curtail the Budget. Instead, they should redouble the battle of contributions.

Conditions in Antigua

From Sir Kenneth Blackburne

Sir, I fear that your correspondent covering the Queen's tour of the Caribbean was unable during his short visit to obtain a fully balanced view of conditions in Antigua.

I was in Antigua myself two weeks ago—my second return visit after living there for six years while Governor of the Leeward Islands, 1950 to 56.

I was delighted to see the improvements of all kinds in this formerly backward colony, nearly all of which are due to the leadership of the present Premier, Mr V. C. Bird, who was abused at the demonstration reported by your correspondent, and further denigrated by him in his article in *The Times*.

My facts are these. During my tenure of office the Labour Party, headed by Mr Bird, came to power, almost entirely because it was based on the single trade union which then existed—also formed by Mr Bird. The party remained in power until 1971. During Mr Bird's first long period of service as Chief Minister and Premier, a rival trade union was established, largely because Mr Bird put his country before sectional interests and lost some support from the workers. This union, which organized the demonstration during the Queen's

visit, now outnumbered the original union.
From 1971 to 1976 the rival political party was in power, and not Mr Bird. It was during this period that the oil refinery and the sugar industry collapsed, while the tourist industry suffered from the unpleasant attitude which developed among those normally most kindly and friendly to peoples. In their last year in office the United Nations recorded an unemployment rate of 47 per cent, as compared with the current rate of 40 per cent recorded today by your correspondent.

Since Mr Bird's return to power, there are clear signs (as almost everyone in the Eastern Caribbean will confirm) of a return to the progress which marked his first term in office. The sugar industry is to be revived on a small basis to meet local needs; as your correspondent says, there are plans for reopening the oil refinery (not a matter which can be resolved quickly); and the extension of the tourist industry is being planned and backed by the welcome which is now given to visitors as evidenced by the highly favourable reports given to me by the fellow travellers on my recent cruise.
Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BLACKBURNE,
Garvey,
Ballaisha, Isle of Man.

Battle of Britain credit

From Mr Robert Rhodes James, MP for Cambridge (Conservative)

Sir, Exception has been taken in your columns to a recent book by Mr Len Deighton entitled *Fighter*, which is described by the publishers as "The True Story of the Battle of Britain", and which has an enthusiastic foreword by Mr A. J. P. Taylor.

I would only add this. Mr Deighton's book makes no reference whatever to the critical role played by the late Lord Swinton, Secretary of State for Air, 1935 to 1938, in the transformation of Fighter Command. Nor, apparently, has any use been made of the substantial archives—freely available to researchers—of the Air Defence Research Committee and its sub-committees, or the Cabinet Papers. Indeed, Lord Swinton's name is not mentioned once in Mr Deighton's true story of the Battle of Britain.

Mr Deighton may not share my very high estimation of Lord Swinton's unique contribution to the salvation of this nation. But it is lamentable to treat him as though he never existed, and to ignore totally the fact that the decisions to order the Spitfires and Hurricanes, to make Radio Direction Finding central part of Fighter Command's operational system, to establish the "shadow" factory organization (tragically disrupted by Swinton's successor), and to initiate the dramatic expansion of the RAF's training programme were

reminders of her seniority amongst the world's great state buildings? Those who think that the Houses of Parliament would look better as bright as a new pin should inspect their fringes onto the Victoria Tower Gardens, which appears to have suffered a scrubbing already.
I fear that unless someone is successful at diverting the Member for Leicester, West, to a cause slightly further afield, then another disbursement of several millions of pounds of public money may be required in a few years time to restore to this hallowed building a decent coating of Victorian-Gothic style grime.
Yours faithfully,
R. S. CONIBEAR,
Crown Agents,
Millbank, SW1,
November 1.

Cleaning up Parliament

From Mr R. S. Conibear
Sir, The MP who has had the novel idea of campaigning for a cleaning up of the outside of Parliament (October 31) is certainly ingenious, but surely he is not to be taken seriously. Of all the jewels of our architectural heritage, the one which would be positively ruined by the application of 3½ million pounds worth of soap and water is the Palace of Westminster.

The operation of stonework cleaning may have been used to dazzling effect on buildings which were originally designed to look elegant, rather than ancient, such as the Georgian terraces of Cheltenham and Bath, but might not the Mother of Parliaments be allowed to retain her sombre Gothic grandeur as a

Imposing sanctions on South Africa

From Mr John Hatch

Sir, Professor de Crespigny (November 1) argues in your columns today that foreign pressure on South Africa has strengthened and will strengthen the National Party, that carrots rather than sticks will influence South African policy and that Afrikaners have a right to protect their interests, which would be abrogated by black rule.

The Professor is supported in his thesis by many leaders of opinion in this country. May I first destroy the widely diffused canard that external pressure is responsible for the South African Government's repression? Little concern from outside South Africa was shown with the racial situation in that country before 1960. Yet, during the half century which had passed since Union, Africans had been removed from the Cape common roll, a land settlement had been imposed providing the 80 per cent non-whites with under 1 per cent of the land, new discriminations had been laid on the Asians and apartheid had been introduced with a series of inhuman laws. Hardly evidence that, left to themselves, white South Africans move towards humane measures! Since the outside world has taken more concern it can at least be argued that in small degrees—in sport, for instance—South African whites have been coerced into some reform.

If the Afrikaner has a right to protect his interest, so must the black African be accorded the same right. Is there any human right which transcends that to participate fully in the form of society in which one lives? Apparently Professor de Crespigny would permanently deny that right to a majority of his black fellow citizens. Most black Africans show a far more tolerant attitude to whites, whom they wish to include in a non-racial South Africa. Unfortunately, the Professor is again exposing the tragic myopia of so many South African whites. If he and his fellows continue to insist that whites and black interests are inevitably in conflict, he must also accept that such a conflict can only be resolved by force—with each side seeking alliance with whoever will offer support. In that event neither Afrikaners nor any other whites can expect their rights to survive.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HATCH,
The End Cottage,
Lusby,
Nr. Spilsby,
Lincolnshire,
November 1.

Withdrawal from Palestine

From Sir Harold Beeley

Sir, I am sorry to see that Mr Dayan, as reported in your issue of October 26, is perpetuating the myth that the British Government, when they withdrew from Palestine in May 1948, did so in the belief that the Jewish population might be annihilated and without allowing this consideration to influence them. As evidence he cites a conversation he had "years later" with Field Marshal Montgomery who said that as Chief of the Imperial General Staff he had advised the Cabinet that a war in 1948 would be won by the Arabs in eight days.

The British documents for that year, when they became available, will tell a very different story. Meanwhile one of the best contemporary sources is the volume of State Department documents published a few months ago. It includes the record made by Mr Lay Henderson of a conversation with me on May 2, two weeks before the termination of the Mandate. "It was his opinion," Mr Henderson wrote, "that for some time at least the Jews . . . could withstand and possibly defeat the poorly organized and badly equipped Arab armies." This was of course not my personal opinion, which on this subject could have been of no possible value to the State Department. But summary of the expert wartime advice which the Foreign Office had been receiving for some time.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD BEELEY,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
October 27.

Radical thought

From Mr Ken Coates

Sir, Although we are grateful for Professor Gould's apology (October 14) for inadvertently misrepresenting us, he makes amends which somewhat aggravates the wounds originally inflicted.

The Russell Foundation did not, as you say, "withdraw its support from the 1977 Communist University", since we had never afforded any such support in the first place. As outsiders, we had simply observed that this event had become, as we said, more intellectually open than had been various earlier forums of the same kind. Clear evidence of the accuracy of this observation may be found in Dr Zhores Medvedev to present a paper on the state of Soviet science.

When the leaders of the Communist Party prohibited this lecture, our protest was not, as Professor Gould is implying, based upon any previous association whatever with the Communist University, but upon our long and close association with Dr Medvedev.
Yours sincerely,
KEN COATES,
Director, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation Ltd,
Camble Street,
Nottingham.

Appropriate enough?

From Mr David Engleheart

Sir, Some years ago a *Times* headline "Mirages sold to Libya" gave me much pleasure.
Now, "Lord Claver given the cold shoulder" is a foreseeable risk. Isn't he casing the joint?
Yours faithfully,
DAVID ENGLEHEART,
Moffats School,
Bewdley,
Worcestershire,
November 1.

Tactics at Belgrade

From Mr Lionel Bloch

Sir, Your leader on tactics at Belgrade (October 24) does not concern itself sufficiently with the basic assumption of most western delegations, namely, that between the extremes of direct confrontation and the abject pandering to Soviet susceptibilities, there is an ideal middle ground for effective diplomacy.

If such ground exists at all, it cannot be larger than the point of a needle.

We are asked to believe not only that the most controversial issues of our times can be discussed without controversy, but also that the tedious avoidance of anything that might incur the displeasure of the Communist countries, is a higher form of wisdom.

In fact, the Belgrade conference has already shown that the self-denying ordinances of the West are little more than a device to conceal the gap between its ostensible aims and the charade of maintaining momentum for its own sake.

The USSR and its allies have had two years to implement the solemn promises of the "Final Act". It is common ground that every single promise made by the Communist states was broken. What possible

reason can there be for the claim that some of these promises may still be kept by the Eastern dictatorships, if only the West will not point a finger at specific violations of human rights or do so only with discreet diffidence?

If the Belgrade conference is to achieve anything at all, then the Western delegation will have to realize that there is no halfway house between effective pressure (however declaratory) and mere pussy-footing.
As you so rightly point out, it is unlikely that Russia will walk out of the conference, but even in the unlikely event of such a withdrawal, this would be infinitely preferable to an outcome which, in the name of détente, will make a mockery of the entire human rights issue and also confer on the Kremlin the undeserved aura of a benevolent super power amenable to diplomatic reasoning and sympathetic to humanitarian pleas.
Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, W1.

Enigma disclosures

From Sir Herbert Marchant

Sir, Mr Coulson, in his letter of October 27 shows himself very

properly concerned—as no doubt are many other of our Bletchley Park colleagues—about his position in relation to the Enigma disclosures. His proposal, however, that all concerned should be "individually informed" that they are now at liberty to talk is surely quite out of line in view of the wording of the Official Secrets Act declaration. The one I signed required us to maintain the statutory silence with regard to all secret information in our possession "save such as has already been made public". I expect his did too.

F. W. Winterbottom's *The Ultra Secret*, which "blew" the Enigma story three years ago, was published with the go-ahead, if not the blessing of the relevant authorities. Now that a selection—also still very incomplete—of decoded Enigma messages is available for study at the Public Record Office, I think it reasonable to assume that we are now off the hook.

In trying to write a social history of Bletchley Park and its brilliant, but often curiously unworldly inmates—many of them now in high places—it is rather the law of libel than the Official Secrets Act that worries me.
Yours faithfully,
HERBERT MARCHANT,
32 Buckingham Court, W11.

Reflections in a golden eye

appeared in the book dressed for a fashion show at Olympia in 1923 (the year of the discovery of the tomb of Croesus) in a Molyneux costume comprising headress from the Aida, pearls from Queen Alexandra, frock from the dress reform dance society, and a bunch of lilies from the Madonna. I should think it paid off to be in the right image in those days. Pioneering Campbell Walter once had a letter from a group of miners in Cuba, records Ms Kennedy. It was a letter to two pilgrims on their way for Mecca.


So what do we want to look like now? A gallop poll conducted by myself shows that one group, on the whole rather

Incidentally, talking of the plain, Bridget Keenan relates the most ravishing anecdote about two very (theoretically) ugly women who were never married. It seems that at a costume ball outside Paris just before the Second World War, the arch rivals in couture, Gabrielle Chanel and Elsa Schiaparelli, were dancing together (!) the former dressed as a Tree Fern and the latter as Queen of the Ants. That could, of course, explain why nobody else was dancing with them. Anyway, Chanel took the opportunity to propose to Schiaparelli, who refused, and went into the path of the canedabraya and Elsa's antennae caught fire.

Neither the Vogue book nor

menties to make short for the boys in Anderson's *The Wild Swans* to transmute them into men when probably when they got home Capital Transfer Tax or an invasion would have taken away their kingdoms, and anyway was it not rather fast winging it? I don't know, but the sea seems to have been a good way from mortuaries and squealing kids?

I do hope that when someone does the sequel to *The Women We Wanted to Look Like* for men, we will not find out that they all dreamt of Clark Gable, John H. Kennedy, Prince Phillip, or even, I think, James Mollison (original editor of the OED), Muhammad Ali and Pope Paul. You see, I have always been fond of frogs.



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[illegible]

Above: Would you like to look like the famous dancer, posed beneath an interesting chimney piece? Mayotte Magnus and is in her portrait Gallery. The pictures are famous and serve as an interesting "We Wanted To Look Like" and "Look" (see below).
 Top right: The Hollywood-style of Brigid Keenan's new book, actors, a streaker, being arrested, enormous Alsatian dog peering.
 Above right: Marie-Laure de la beverage taste. She was particularly beautiful face is a silent recommendation," wrote Francis Bacon, and essayed not to remark on the noise which might be expected from those who look like the proverbial back of a bus.
 But then writers, especially male writers, have always been especially ambivalent about that creature so beautiful, a misnomer himself, Bacon is no exception; on the one hand he produces the knock-out blow of the plain which I quote above, but on the other we find him remarking that "there is no excellent beauty that hath out some strangeness in the proportion," which would seem to let in the back-of-the-bus brigade. Likewise, Alexander Pope: "If to her share some female errors fall, Look on her face and you'll forget 'em all," counterpointed by "Beauties ruin their pretty eyes may all; Charming strike the sight, it merit wins the soul". In other words, there is hope for all.
 That hope burns particularly bright just now, when the ideal beauty has so firmly changed over the general, and it is this change in the eye of the beholder as much as in the behalf which I think makes Brigid Keenan's book, *The Women We Wanted to Look Like* (Macmillan, £7.95) so fascinating. Note the tense; and to look like.
 Well, it seems we wanted to look like Heddy Lamarr, Jean Harlow, Bette Davis, Anna May Wong, Naomi Sims, Barbara Bagenal, for an amazing looking woman called Sumurun, who appears in the book dressed for fashion show at Olympia in 1923 (the year of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, of course) in a Molyneux costume comprising headress from Alexandria, pearls from the East, and a dress from the 19th century reform dance society, and a bunch of lilies from the Amazonia. I should think it would be in the right place in those days. Fiona Campbell Walter once had a letter from a group of miners in Cuba, records Mr Keenan, and another from two pilgrims on route for Mecca.
 So what do we want to look like now? A gallop poll conducted by myself shows that the group, on the whole rather

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Fashion

Sections in Golden eye

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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Will miners' pay
put a
damper on coal?
page 21

Mr Healey says pound float option was 'least damaging'

By Malcolm Brown

Mr Healey yesterday told industrial and trade union leaders that the decision to float the pound had been the least damaging option open to him to protect the Government's monetary policy. Speaking at the monthly meeting of the National Economic Development Council, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the option of a controlled float was the least damaging to the economy. He said that the decision to float the pound was a necessary one, but that it was the least damaging option available. He said that the decision to float the pound was a necessary one, but that it was the least damaging option available. He said that the decision to float the pound was a necessary one, but that it was the least damaging option available.

JS uncertainty over economy worsens

By Frank Vogl

Bankers and brokers on Wall Street argued today that the latest of the dollar in the exchange market and the decline in share prices on stock exchanges clearly reflected the worst wave of general business uncertainty in the United States since the height of the Watergate crisis in mid-1974. There was uncertainty about economic outlook, which was partly fuelled by the fact that the Reserve Board's decision to continue to raise interest rates, and the continuing uncertainty about national economic conditions, the experts said. They were, for example, fearful of mounting tension between the Fed and the Carter Administration, which might lead to a decision to ease monetary policy. Dr Arthur Burns, the Fed's chairman, said that the Fed's policy of further tightening is widely seen as a direct rebuke to those in the White House who claim that the policy threatens to choke economic recovery. It is to be seen as the case at the time when the Fed is in the middle of an attempt to bring the dollar and when the Congress is failing to act swiftly on important legislation, the pious Wall Street mood of

Blumenthal caution on support for dollar

From Peter Norman
Bonn, Nov 2

Mr Michael Blumenthal, the United States Treasury Secretary, today said that the Carter Administration was firmly committed to the maintenance of a strong and stable dollar. But he immediately made clear that the United States authorities would not seek to influence the exchange rate of the dollar on foreign exchange markets through large-scale intervention. Mr Blumenthal's remarks at a press conference and later at a meeting of politicians and businessmen in Bonn, gave no indication that he thinks the dollar undervalued at its present level. In fact, he was quick to correct an interpreter who translated his statement that the United States was interested in a strong dollar in such a way as to suggest that Washington was interested in strengthening the currency.

After his talks today with Herr Schmidt, the German Chancellor, Dr Hans Apel, the finance minister, and Herr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the economics minister, Mr Blumenthal stressed that the United States proposed to maintain a strong dollar by a healthy, expanding, non-inflationary domestic economy. He said that the United States trade deficit, which at its forecast level of \$30,000m this year, had played a significant role in depressing the dollar, should not worsen next year. He added that the deficit should begin to fall towards the end of 1978, as the Carter Administration's energy programme begins to take effect. The Treasury Secretary underlined that the United States had achieved a 6 per cent rate of real economic growth so far this year, and would be aiming to maintain a growth rate in the gross national product approaching 8 per cent in 1978. He said that the Administration would take additional measures necessary to ensure that growth continued at a satisfactory level of between 7 and 8 per cent. By 1979, if we remain hard at work, there is every chance for seeing improvement in our trade and current account balances, Mr Blumenthal said. He made clear that much would depend on developments elsewhere, including West Germany, where the Government's target of a 4.5 per cent real growth rate next year was questioned last week as being too optimistic by the country's five leading economic research institutes. Dr Apel said, however, that Bonn would take no further action to stimulate the domestic economy for six to eight months. Dollar rallies: The dollar perked up on the foreign exchange markets yesterday against all major currencies except the Swiss franc. In London it closed up 1.1 yen to 248 yen, and strengthened against the Deutsche mark from DM2.2395 on Tuesday to DM2.249. The Swiss franc rose from 2.215 to 2.211. Dealers could not really explain the dollar's revival, except that the market may have overdone the fall in recent weeks.

£3,500 pay-offs in ship redundancies

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Shipbuilding workers leaving the industry will qualify for a maximum payment of £3,500 under the terms of new legislation to which reference is expected to be made in the Queen's Speech on the re-opening of Parliament today.

A short Statutory Redundancy Bill has been drafted. It will incorporate a financial memorandum which, at the Treasury's insistence, will carry the figure of £3,500 as the likely maximum for severance terms. But discussions between British Shipbuilders and leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on the precise form of the scheme are still taking place, and are expected to be concluded before the end of this month. Although the memorandum will refer to the £3,500 maximum, this is regarded as an illustrative figure only by Whitehall, and it is widely expected that

the final terms will be rather more generous. But British Shipbuilders are aware of Whitehall's concern that the terms of severance should not be over-generous. The Government, which hoped that the two sides would have been able to agree on the terms by the middle of September, has modelled its scheme on that operated by the British Steel Corporation, which offers slightly better terms than the statutory redundancy payments scheme. But the unions have approached the negotiations with the state shipbuilding corporation on the basis of the National Dock Labour Board's severance scheme. This provides for payments on a sliding scale ranging from £1,300 after one year's service to £7,000 for 20 years' service or more. The Government hopes that agreement will be reached fairly quickly so that the enabling Bill can be introduced into the parliamentary timetable.

Union leaders are expected to press for improved retirement arrangements rather than a redundancy scheme, for the industry's 90,000 workers. A compromise which provides payments roughly between the BSC and the NDLB schemes seems the most likely outcome. Payments would be related to age, length of service in the industry and pay at the time of retirement. Against the background of worldwide overcapacity in shipbuilding, which is expected to last for some years, the redundancy issue is a sensitive one. Most of the shipyards are in areas of high unemployment where prospects for alternative employment are limited. Last week the European Commission forecast that between 50,000-60,000 shipbuilding jobs would have to be shed in the Community between now and 1980 if the industry was to survive the crisis. British shipbuilders have strongly opposed contraction of the industry.

Solidarity of building societies is strained

Rumblings are growing among the leaders of the country's largest building societies, who are increasingly disconcerted about the ponderous structure of the Building Societies Association. Yesterday Sir Oliver Chesterman, chairman of the Woolwich Building Society (fifth largest in the country), said that "the big societies need more voice. Perhaps the machinery of the Building Societies Association is a little too cumbersome for the liking of larger societies". A proponent of this view is Mr Tim Timberlake, the chief general manager of the Abbey National, second largest building society in the country, who brought matters to a head three weeks ago when he announced that the Abbey was not going to cut immediately its investment rate for savers on the society's books at the end of October.

For months Mr Timberlake has been concerned about the big surpluses that the Abbey, and indeed other large societies, are going to make this year. The Abbey solution, using some of the excess to pay existing investors more, not only reflects the society's genuine concern for the investor but also is a gesture against the BSA system of fixing interest rates, which is based on the lowest common denominator. The Abbey move, which was quickly followed for competitive reasons by the Leeds Permanent and by the Britannia, has given additional impetus and force to the BSA subcommittee formed in July to look at a wide range of issues including liquidity, reserves, margins and surpluses. The subcommittee, under the chairmanship of the BSA chairman, Mr Ralph Saw, managing director of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, is expected to report by the end of the year. Among its recommendations is expected to be some move towards changing the present sliding scale of the reserves ratio last fixed in 1967.

Welcome as any changes probably will be, most of the big societies also want to see positive changes in the way in which the interest rate structure is fixed. Nobody wants to abolish the existing cartel—building society interest rates are deliberately excluded from the gaze of the Office of Fair Trading—but all have suggestions to improve the flexibility of the present system. Mr Albert Thorne, chief general manager of the Halifax, largest in the country, would like room to manoeuvre around the recommended rate permitting, for example, societies to move with 1 per cent on either side of the recommended rates. At the Nationwide, third largest, Mr Leonard Williams, the chief general manager who is a firm advocate of both term shares and the differential mortgage interest rates, would like individual societies to be able to fix their own rates for all but the basic recommended investment and mortgage rates. What it all comes down to is that the top societies in the country frequently operate more efficiently and have the benefits of economy of scale and can afford, from time to time, to give a better deal to either borrowers or savers than the medium and small-sized societies. But at the moment there is no way in which they can give this service without upsetting the BSA appellate.

Margaret Stone

Chrysler stewards from Linwood seek strike support in Midlands

By Clifford Webb

Shop stewards from Chrysler's strikebound Linwood plant in Renfrewshire travelled south to Coventry yesterday to enlist the support of their colleagues at the company's four Midlands factories. The Linwood men led by Mr Jim Livingston, senior steward for the Transport and General Workers' Union, met senior stewards from the Stoke factory (engines), Ryton (Aldersley), Birmingham (spare parts), and Birmingham (spare parts). After four hours of talks at the IGWU headquarters in Coventry, it was announced that a full meeting of the Chrysler shop stewards' committee would be called next week. But Midlands shop stewards denied reports that they had already given the national strike 100 per cent support. Mr Pat Fox, the transport union convenor at Ryton, said: "That is quite untrue. The Linwood lads gave us copies of a document from the company setting out four conditions which must be met by the unions at Linwood before it will reopen the plant."



Mr Lacy: In touch with Department of Industry

"We agreed to take that document back to our plant, shop stewards committee, and that they could decide what action to take at the combined meeting next week. It seems to us at this stage that the blame for this stoppage must be shared by both management and unions, but management seem to be the worst offenders. According to the Linwood shop stewards they have not made any commitment in the current year, an increase somewhat smaller than the market has come to expect. But Consolidated Gold says that the first quarter of the current year has been encouraging. Last year the group made a pre-tax profit of £35.6m. Prospects of the rights issue are destined for the expansion of the group's operations in the United Kingdom and the United States, as it continues

diversification away from South Africa and gold. The recent acquisition of Hydro Conduit, a United States concrete pipe manufacturer, boosted approved capital expenditure for the current year to £24m, and increased borrowings to £176m at the end of September. Meanwhile, Bellambi Coal, the group's 46 per cent owned Australian coal company, has announced that it has been unable to renew its long-term coal contract with Australian smelters and will cease to produce at Mount Pleasant Cokeworks next January. Financial Editor, page 21

loss-making company's future that the Department of Industry is keeping in daily touch with senior management. On Tuesday Mr George Lacy, managing director, and Mr Peter Griffiths, his deputy, were called to the department's London headquarters for talks. Vauxhall announced yesterday that, despite the continuing strike by 3,000 craftsmen, it would reopen all its plants today with work available for all 24,000 manual employees. Production of cars and vans has been at a standstill for the past seven days with 18,000 men laid off. But last night one of the strike leaders, Mr Tony Clegg, chairman of the skilled workers' action committee, said: "It will not work. The craftsmen's shop stewards have voted unanimously to continue our strike. Production will not be able to get going. The men will not be laid off again."

He said the company had said not come up with any proposals to settle the dispute over skilled men's differentials. Another 2,200 Leyland employees were laid off yesterday because of a strike at Triumph, Liverpool. The latest lay-offs at Triumph, Coventry, have halted production of the Doimo range of cars. The suspension of work at Triumph, 1,500 Liverpool workers walked out in protest at moves to increase productivity. A further 1,500 were laid off stopping the TR7 assembly line. So serious is the threat to the

Consolidated Gold Fields' £40m rights issue meets with poor reception in City

By Desmond Quigley

Consolidated Gold Fields, the Johannesburg-based mining finance house, yesterday announced a £40m rights issue, the second in two and a half years. The terms are two new ordinary shares for every nine at a price of 155p, a discount on yesterday's opening market price of 21 pence. However, the stock market gave a poor reception to the offer, with Consolidated Gold shares falling by 20p to 177p yesterday. The group is forecasting a 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 13.75p a share

at the beginning of the year; 1978 dividend is expected to be 12.5p. The British National Oil Corporation, £205m from the sale of BP shares to foreigners; and £326m from nationalised industry borrowing under the exchange control scheme. The Government has now begun a very limited programme of early repayment of some outstanding loans and has announced that it will not take up any more of the IMF standby credit (although the facility remains open until the end of next year). Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Shadow Chancellor issued a strong criticism of the govern-

IMI share offer likely to be fully subscribed

By Our Financial Staff

Indications last night were that the £68m offer-for-sale of the ICI 62 1/2 per cent holding in IMI would be fully subscribed, despite the shares having fallen to within 1p of the offer price at 52 1/2p. Lists closed yesterday. IMI's price has shown surprising strength as the market has fallen, being well supported within the market, while institutions anxious to increase their stakes in a front-line engineering company freed from the position of being a subsidiary of a chemical major, look to have taken the opportunity to avoid stamp duty and commission charges by subscribing for the offer. Thus the underwriters are not expected to have to take up many of the shares on offer.

S Africa boosts exports to UK, but cuts imports

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Nov 2

South African exports to Britain increased by more than 29 per cent in the past 12 months, but imports from Britain fell by more than 20 per cent. Disclosing this, Mr G. S. Muller, president of the South Africa-Britain Trade Association, urged critics seeking change in South Africa to continue to use "persuasion" instead of threats of sanctions and isolation. Mr Muller told the association's annual meeting that the decrease in imports from Britain was in line with the general policy of discouraging imports to improve the balance of payments position; but overall trade between South Africa and Britain had dropped by less than 1 per cent in the year to the end of July, totalling about £1,400m. He said South Africans need not be alarmed by the threat of sanctions and boycotts. Commonsense and simple economic facts made total isolation unlikely, if not impossible. Dr David Owen had confirmed that trade sanctions would cause major problems and higher unemployment in Britain, disrupting industries dependent on imports of chrome, magnesium, platinum and other South African minerals. Mr Muller said it could not be denied that South Africa's domestic policies should be adjusted more quickly, but there was some movement. "The way in which to help us speed up this process is not by threats of isolation but by continuing persuasion and good old-fashioned diplomacy."

British Oxygen 'back to work' moves likely today

By Donald MacIntyre

Three thousand British Oxygen Co strikers are expected to start returning to work today as formal pay negotiations resume between the company and union officials. By last night, out of the 30 of the company's 46 depots on strike had voted on officials' recommendations to return, 22 had voted to go back. A spokesman for British Oxygen said last night the company was confident that most of the group's 56 sites—including most of the major works—would return to normal working today. Shop stewards on Monday narrowly agreed to recommend a return to work so that the company could make a formal improved pay offer. After hearing the results of the depots meetings yesterday, the company agreed to hold fresh talks. The strike, which started after BOC management offered a pay increase of 10 per cent coupled with productivity pay-

Reserves soar by \$3,040m to record \$20,211m

Continued from page 1

But it became clear from the money supply figures in September that the continued flood of overseas funds into London was endangering the Government's money supply targets. A rough guide to the extent of official intervention in the exchange markets is given by the underlying, non-official, increase in the reserves, which was more than \$1,000m larger than in any previous month this year. It is not yet known how much of this has fed through to swell the money stock. Some supply figures for October to go above the 13 per cent upper limit of the official target range, although there were substantial gilt sales during the month. In the first 10 months of this year the underlying rise in the official reserves has been \$11,362m. On top of this the official element in the reserves has risen by a net \$4,720m. Of this \$11,894m has come from drawings on the International Monetary Fund, and by credit of \$1,500m from the Government's medium term Eurocurrency loan arranged at

the beginning of the year; £750m of the latter was lent to the British National Oil Corporation; £205m from the sale of BP shares to foreigners; and £326m from nationalised industry borrowing under the exchange control scheme. The Government has now begun a very limited programme of early repayment of some outstanding loans and has announced that it will not take up any more of the IMF standby credit (although the facility remains open until the end of next year). Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Shadow Chancellor issued a strong criticism of the govern-

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ment's exchange rate policy yesterday's reserves announcement. He said that the Government had purchased dollars for the reserves at great cost to the taxpayer. The value of the dollars bought since July had fallen by about £200m this week. The Government had had to issue gilt edged stock to mop up the foreign inflows and the rate of return paid on this was about double the rate earned on the United States Treasury bills bought by the Government for the reserves. He estimated that the capital loss to the taxpayer on the gilt was about £200m.

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By Donald MacIntyre

Survey explodes some of the myths about 'British sickness' and reveals willingness to invest

Nordic groups see bright future for UK industry

By Peter Hill

Scandinavian companies, so often the test bed of social democracy and labour relations advances, yesterday exploded some of the myths about British industry, and gave the Government's inward investment policies a useful boost.

A survey among about 30 British subsidiaries of Nordic companies revealed a surprising degree of confidence in the future of the British economy, and an equally surprising amount of contentment about operations in Britain to the extent that they would recommend increased investment by Nordic countries in the United Kingdom.

The survey, commissioned by the

Nordic Bank and carried out by Research Services, showed that the British business environment was considered by most of the executives questioned to compare favourably with conditions in the Nordic area in almost every respect, apart from productivity.

But the survey revealed that although average total hourly costs of labour in parts of Scandinavia are as much as 2.5 times as high as in Britain, productivity in a significant number of United Kingdom subsidiaries was as high—or even higher—than in the parent company, and was most commonly no more than 15-20 per cent lower.

Very few of those companies covered by the survey—ranging from those

employing only about a score of workers to those employing about 1,400—thought that Nordic companies offered a better environment in terms of absenteeism, days lost through industrial action, or overall labour relations.

One third of the companies interviewed in fact considered their labour relations were better here.

Of the 30 companies covered by the survey, 25 claimed to have lost no days at all through industrial action. Of the remainder, one company put the loss at less than five days per year and the others reckoned to have lost between a half and a full day.

About half of the companies interviewed said that there was lower productivity in the United Kingdom—

although three operating in special development areas reported that productivity was higher—and overall it appears that the lower costs more than compensate for the somewhat lower levels of productivity.

Principal complaints mentioned by the researchers related to delivery problems and fluctuating exchange rates while, encouragingly, the Bank of England's restrictions on sterling finance do not appear to have been a significant disincentive.

All this was music to the ears of Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, who said that the results provided practical evidence of the success of Scandinavian companies operating in Britain.

Strong reaction against Whitehall plan to limit monopoly advertising

By Patricia Tisdell

"Strictest objections" to Government proposals to give the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection new powers to curb advertising spending by monopoly holders have been lodged by the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers.

In comments which have been circulated to members this week, the society describes the plan as "draconian" and "illogical".

The proposal is part of a series of 18 amendments which the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection wants to make to the Fair Trading and Restrictive Trade Practices Acts during the next parliamentary session.

It aims to enable the Secretary of State to restrict advertising or other promotional expenditure if the Monopolies Commission reports adversely on this aspect of a company's activities.

Advertisers argue that, apart from practical difficulties, control would increase costs to the consumer and reduce consumer choice. Manufacturers, they say, would be bound to look for other less efficient ways of selling their products.

Intention to restrict advertising is also expected to be registered by individual member companies. These include Unilever, which, when a proposal to restrict advertising of detergents by its Lever Bros subsidiary was raised in a Monopolies Commission report in 1966, threatened to fight the case in the courts and in Parliament.

In that report, the Commission recommended that the companies concerned should cut their selling costs by 40 per cent. It also urged the Board of Trade to consider introducing some form of automatic sanction that would discourage excessive selling expenditure.

A head-on clash between the soap companies and the Government was eventually avoided by a compromise. The agreement reached in 1967 was that Lever Bros and Procter & Gamble each would market one soap powder and two detergents at prices 20 per cent below those of their regular brands.

The Monopolies Commission's most recent comments about advertising are contained in its report on cat and dog

foods published last July. It concluded that the present scale of advertising by Pedigree Pet Foods and Spillers does not operate and may not be expected to operate against the public interest.

But in general it considered that the difficulties of smaller suppliers seeking to enter their sales, or of entrants to the market, are increased by the cost of national advertising which bears more heavily on them than on a supplier with a large share of the market.

Advertisers say that there is "no justification" for singling out advertising and promotional expenditure as being in some way "potentially harmful" and deserving of control.

They maintain that there are no objective criteria which can be used by the Government to arrive at "proper" levels of expenditure in any particular case, adding that any control "would inevitably be arbitrary, distorting the whole marketing process and competitive relationships".

Other objections are that there would be severe practical difficulties in the enforcement of controlled advertising.

Standards of NRDC 'will not be lowered'

By Kenneth Owen

The Government-backed National Research Development Corporation, severely criticized a year ago by the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, "does not propose to lower its standards to appease its critics".

This is stated by Lord Schon, chairman, and Mr William Mackintosh, managing director, in the corporation's annual report for 1976-77, which is being published today.

Changes in the role of the NRDC proposed by the Select Committee appeared to be based in part on a number of misunderstandings, the chairman and managing director say. Accusations of "speculation and indifference" are hard to counter. The corporation would also show a record of success, but "it is sometimes difficult to leave these impressions with those, unfortunately, the majority, whose proposals one has had to turn down".

Despite his initial rejection rate, Lord Schon and Mr Mackintosh say, only about 20 per cent of the proposals accepted by the corporation match up to the original criteria.

After reaffirming their intention not to lower their standards, they continue: "We certainly accept a responsibility to make our services better known to our potential clients, whether they be individuals, public bodies, universities or industrial firms, so that both the number and quality of opportunities for participation may be increased."

Both royalties from licences and fees from joint ventures increased significantly during the year, the report discloses, resulting in a rise in the surplus before tax to more than £10m.

The corporation's cash reserves also have continued to grow, despite the early repayment of government loans, and at the end of the financial year stood at more than £14m.

The amount authorized for



Lord Schon: Critics appear to be based on misunderstandings.

Investment in joint ventures with industry was £4.81m (compared with £5.55m the previous year), and the actual development expenditure during the year was £2.35m (compared with £2.79m).

Leases received from joint ventures increased substantially, from £1.2m to £2.15m, and the corporation received £1.63m from the sale of shares in companies.

Total number of current joint ventures with industry rose from 158 in 1975-76 to 185, in respect of the overall total of £23.17m had been authorized.

Companies with which the corporation set up new development projects during the year included: Rapid Data Systems International (addressing machines); Datron Electronics (digital voltmeters and instruments); CRD/Stratman Fox & Partners (project planning system); Rivers Machinery (machining centre for window and door frames); Cleanstone Company (Brands) (cleaning equipment); and Cambridge Instrument Company (ultrasonic echo cardiograph).

West urged to resist Soviet shipping expansion

By Michael Baily

The West must step up its resistance to Soviet shipping expansion, a spokesman of the Ministry of State for Trade, said yesterday.

He said that on his recent visit to Moscow he found a clear intention on the part of the Russians that the West should be aware of the resolve to apply sanctions in its own defence.

Mr Clinton Davis was speaking at a press briefing in London after talks with ship-owners and maritime unions.

Moscow was, therefore, clearly intending to accentuate the differences within the EEC and other Western countries, he said, and to exploit them to its own advantage.

Reporting to the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg last week, Mr Clinton Davis had urged that there was no point in the West's trying to force the Union without being prepared to act from strength.

Several European countries, including Britain, already had power to regulate tax and crew ship out Soviet ships from their ports, and there was now a much greater awareness of the seriousness of Russian rate cutting and expansion as a threat to free world shipping and trade.

Time was not on the West's side, Mr Clinton Davis said, and he hoped the EEC Council of Ministers would be ready for more positive action by early next year.

Little hope of import controls for textiles

By Paul Routledge

Mr Callaghan yesterday admitted that the Gatt multilateral agreement "had not been an entirely satisfactory arrangement", but held out little hope of import controls to textile workers anxious about their jobs.

In response to a petition presented by the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union, the Prime Minister argued that the Government had already taken "a very considerable amount of action" to limit low-cost imports.

He added: "At the same time, we are determined to strengthen the network of protective measures by securing tougher bilateral agreements with supplying countries."

In his letter to Mr Jack Brown, general secretary of the ATWU, Mr Callaghan recounted said already given to the textile industry but agreed that the Gatt multilateral agreement had not worked as effectively as it might. The economic recession had shown up its inherent inadequacies—particularly high minimum growth rates.

"And the EEC slowness in negotiating bilateral restraint agreements led to an unprecedented upsurge in imports from some suppliers," he said.

"We have recognized this, and have taken the lead within the EEC, with great determination, to make sure that there are tougher arrangements next year to succeed those set up under

the present multilateral agreement."

The Prime Minister made no specific reference to the main demand put forward in the textile workers' petition—for immediate import controls that would safeguard the industry until the negotiation of these "tougher arrangements" in mid-1978.

The petition, a "spontaneous shop floor reaction" to the present difficulties, asked Mr Callaghan "to take action without delay to limit the import of cheap textiles into the United Kingdom and save the jobs of textile workers."

Mr Brown said the crisis was now bordering on desperation with extensive short-time working taking place and mill closures being announced with unacceptably regularity.

The textile workers seek from the Government a restoration of the public expenditure cuts leading to a commitment on public purchasing that will direct ministries and state agencies to "buy British, not cheapest". Chief among these agencies are the Ministry of Defence, the Health Service, the Home Office, and local authorities.

Wage levels in the industry vary from £35 a week to £85 depending on the job and shift payments, and "several thousand jobs are at stake between now and mid-1978, according to the union. Companies are currently being propped up by the temporary employment subsidy

Retailers of clothing optimistic

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Britain's clothing and textile industries are showing greater optimism about the immediate future with improvements expected in output and a higher level of orders both from the United Kingdom and overseas.

This was the principal finding of a joint survey conducted by the CBI and the National Economic Development Office in the second of a series of quarterly surveys designed to provide a more accurate picture of the state of activity in the textile and clothing sectors.

Retailers appear to be more optimistic about general conditions of trade than the textile manufacturers, and retail outlets are markedly more optimistic about demand in the immediate future for virtually every category of clothing.

Stocks also appear to be flowing through the pipeline fairly freely, and if sales continue to match or improve on retail expectations there could be above average levels of stock-building.

According to the survey the textile and clothing industry generally appears to be less pessimistic than in the July survey, although there was greater optimism among garment producers than in the spinning and weaving sector. Below capacity working is widespread while the outlook for employment, according to the survey, is no brighter.

through a relatively few very large organizations, the majority of employment is in small companies, many of which supplied the large concerns.

The small companies' record for labour relations was excellent, in the main because they were not subject to the same pressures as the very large organizations which they supply.

Many of the problems must be laid at the door of the "fetish" for mergers in recent years. The result had been a series of vast and ponderous organizations, many of them blighted by remoteness of control and a tendency to seek conformity with little scope for individual innovation or enterprise.

These frustrations and indifference replaced enthusiasm and dedication. There were some exceptions in large organizations, but not many.

The subject of human productivity, Sir Peter suggested, was the biggest challenge facing every branch of industry and business today. It was a world problem but was of special moment in Britain.

Though the bulk of large scale production (about 70 per cent of it) was channelled

Superports may reduce tanker surplus

Development of superports and single buoy mooring facilities in the main oil discharging areas of Europe, Japan and the Middle East, say Transport Corporation, suggests that, "sending loads all that way through such obstacles by road seems nonsensical".

For the traffic to Iran in particular, this contention is supported by the fact given a freight cost of around £200 per ton, an average journey-time of 15 to 18 days; high risk of delay, damage or loss.

In 1974-75, more than 20,000 tons of freight a week are said to have been carried from Europe to Iran by road: each average day 150 lorries, carrying between them a load equal to the capacity of five 600-ton freight railway trains.

Yet there is a railway (continuous but for two water crossings) from Europe to Teheran and beyond. Nowhere else in 20,000 words of text does the supplement mention this. As far as its editors are concerned, the railway seems to be irrelevant. The reader is left to assume that none of this freight is moved by rail, but he is not told why this should be so.

It may be that the lack of

in another report, "by the same company, prospects for the seaborne transport of coal were examined."

*Superports and SBMs for Tankers, H. P. Drewry (Shipping Consultants), £30.

**Sea Trade and Transport of Coal, H. P. Drewry (Shipping Consultants), £30 single copies, £115 series of 10 reports.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fixing level of price control safeguards

From the Managing Director of The British Aluminium Company

Sir, As chairman of the CBI prices negotiating team I was closely involved in the discussions with the Government on the price control safeguards, and I should like to comment on Derek Harris's article of October 31.

He seems to be suggesting that the safeguards have been set at too high a level, and that this is going to prevent the Price Commission from checking companies who seek to improve their margins in a more affluent market.

Mr Harris is wrong in both respects, and I would remind him of the following points:

1 Compared to the safeguards available under the old price code, the new interim safeguard is on average only two-thirds the level of the old one, and the principal safeguard is only one-half the old level. These facts were not disputed by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection during his discussions with the CBI.

2 By definition the safeguards cannot protect a company which is trying to increase its margin beyond the level of the base period. The interim safeguard only operates if a company has already had its margins reduced below 80 per cent of the base period, and then only to the extent necessary to recover to 80 per cent and not beyond.

3 If inflation is running at, say, 12 per cent per annum, then in the absence of price increases or improved efficiency margins are on average being eroded by 1 per cent per month. The CBI opposed strongly the new powers to freeze prices during the three-month period of an investigation because this imposed a heavy penalty on a company even if the increase is found to be fully justified.

4 The fact that the companies named were able to obtain between 70 per cent and 90 per cent of their pre-notified increase under the interim safeguard is not an indication that the Price Commission is powerless but a consequence of the fact that the companies' margins had already declined substantially below 80 per cent of those prevailing earlier in 1977.

5 While it is true that the Price Commission cannot reduce a price below that granted under the interim safeguard, the rapid erosion of margins when inflation is running at 1 per cent per month would mean that a company with prices frozen after a Price Commission investigation would rapidly find its margin eroded down to the lower level of the principal safeguard.

I cannot see how anyone can argue that these safeguards are too high when the real rate of return on capital for United Kingdom industry in 1977 (the base period) is estimated at 4 per cent, compared with 10 per cent in the 1950s. It is now widely accepted by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection among many others—that the profitability of the British industry must be increased in order to stimulate and to finance increased employment and investment.

The safeguard clauses do not prevent the Price Commission from investigating a company and making what contribution it can to improvements in efficiency. The safeguard clauses merely provide a minimal protection—in my view inadequate—against the power of the Price Commission to reduce profits.

Yours faithfully, R. E. UTIGER, 7 Baker Street, London W1M 1AB. November 2.

Organization of product design

From Mr M. J. Neale

Sir, May I add some comments to try to tie together some of the excellent points made by Lord Brown on the organization of product design (October 10) and the spare of correspondence from university professors stimulated by Mr Littlewood's letter (October 19).

Lord Brown's main point is that product design should be a separate but coordinating activity in all manufacturing companies. He shows that responsibility for it should not be combined with that for manufacturing because of the differences in the time scale of many of the problems in these two areas.

It is also essential to keep product design separated from the sales function because no essential stimuli to the design of improved products are:

(a) An understanding of how the present product fails in service.

(b) A recognition of those areas in which it is at present unable to meet the needs of the market.

The acceptance that these two situations exist is quite contrary to the philosophy of sales department, which need to operate in an ambience of product confidence in order to be effective and which cannot therefore, provide at the same time a suitable environment for the design and development of improved products.

The principle of obtaining clear understanding of product performance can also give rise to the application of introducing engineering design to university students. For example, possible final year undergraduate projects could be based on investigating ways in which the performance of various machines, as present manufactured, vary with size and speed, and actually determines these limits.

When following this approach students will discover that application of knowledge to understanding of machine performance involves the use of material from many different academic disciplines. They should then be able to see that the fundamental principle is applied to which they learn at university while being an essential foundation for engineering design, taught to them under direct headings which are not necessarily applicable to teaching rather than for application.

The effective application of knowledge requires, firstly, definition of the practical problem and, secondly, the focus on that problem of the relevant knowledge. Engineering design is a subject mix in an appropriate way for this reason, is described by academic multi-disciplinary.

These approaches can give students an understanding of engineering design in which the knowledge applied is surely the limit to design teaching can go to university, since it stimulates the need to study. Engineering design as such, can only be learned by experience in industry where all the practical strains of allowable cost, preferred methods of manufacture, arrangements for after service, and the general organizational pattern of the company can be taken into account once again it is by Lord Brown.

Yours sincerely, M. J. NEALE, Director, Neale & Associates Limited, Downing Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7PH. November 1.

Planning the operation of London Transport buses

From Dr D. A. Quarmby

Sir, Stephen Plowden (October 11) is right to be concerned that the corporate objectives which London Transport uses for its planning and decision-making should not diverge too greatly from welfare maximization. But as I implied in my article (October 3), the demands of the rough and tumble of real corporate decision-making require the corporate objectives to reflect a balance between being academically correct and being understandable and usable by managers. Even if Plowden's criticisms are valid in theory, the question is do they really matter—that is, will they seriously bias actual decisions?

His first criticism is that the "maximizing passenger mileage" aim discriminates against the poor and in favour of the rich, on the grounds that the latter's travel demand is more sensitive to improvements in service quality. As a matter of fact the evidence is, if anything, the other way: the bus market (which is lower income) is more sensitive to price and service quality. But few of our investment decisions are sensitive to such fine market discrimination.

Plowden's second criticism is of the "perverse incentive" that passenger miles can be used as a basis for rewarding managers—possibly through a service withdrawal—to make more circuitous journeys. He really should give us the credit for having anticipated that one: we only maximize "straight line" passenger miles.

His third point is that, because we treat all passenger miles the same, we may unwittingly encourage people with long journeys, whose journeys are not urgent, to travel at times when they impose delays on people whose time is more valuable, and thereby cause a net loss of community benefit. I cannot see this as a significant effect: in any case our price incentives for such people to travel off-peak, based on both commonsense and a sound marketing policy, help to make sure it is not.

Plowden proposes a remedy of monitoring the level of service provided. While I cannot see the relevance of this to his specific criticisms, I certainly agree it is important for us to monitor the service quality as perceived by the passenger. We already do so for the bus service.

I am surprised John Argenti (November 1) makes such heavy demands on the corporate objectives of "maximizing passenger miles subject to meeting a budget constraint". If he is looking for the sort of overall—and somewhat woolly—characteristics characterizing the aim of so many public corporate bodies, he need look no farther than the Transport (London) Act 1969, which gives as our purpose "to provide, or secure the provision of, such public passenger transport services as best meets the needs for the time being of Greater London".

The intention of our corporate aims is to spread out in my opinion the board and management of London Transport a usable, practical decision criterion in the face of otherwise conflicting objectives of financial targets and a public service obligation. If he can give me a better, equally practical decision criterion, I shall be glad to know it.

Yours sincerely, D. A. QUARMBY, Executive Member, Planning, London Transport, 55 Broadway, London, SW1R 0BD. October 31.

Freight transport to the Middle East

From Professor P. A. Bromhead

Sir, In the Times of October 28, on freight transport to the Middle East, your Transport Corporation suggests that, "sending loads all that way through such obstacles by road seems nonsensical".

For the traffic to Iran in particular, this contention is supported by the fact given a freight cost of around £200 per ton, an average journey-time of 15 to 18 days; high risk of delay, damage or loss.

In 1974-75, more than 20,000 tons of freight a week are said to have been carried from Europe to Iran by road: each average day 150 lorries, carrying between them a load equal to the capacity of five 600-ton freight railway trains.

Yet there is a railway (continuous but for two water crossings) from Europe to Teheran and beyond. Nowhere else in 20,000 words of text does the supplement mention this. As far as its editors are concerned, the railway seems to be irrelevant. The reader is left to assume that none of this freight is moved by rail, but he is not told why this should be so.

It may be that the lack of

adequate transit for railway wagons across a water obstacle, the Bosphorus, is currently crippling to through-rail transit. But the supplement mentions in passing and without drawing implications, a plan to overcome this obstacle by a railway tunnel (much cheaper, surely than the second road bridge).

The second water obstacle, Lake Van, is now crossed by a rail ferry, capable of being developed to high capacity. Beyond it the 200-mile section of railway line to Tabriz is newly built, and a new high-quality railway line now under construction will soon supplement part of the existing section from Tabriz to Tiflis.

Even now a passenger can travel by train from London to Teheran in seven days—moving at a speed well within the capacity of modern freight trains on adequate track. Why then not, potentially, freight too, if not in seven days then in much less than road's 15?

The same applies to Iraq and Syria (and, potentially, beyond it).

As a solution to the existing deficiencies, the supplement mentions a plan for a new road through Turkey—though University of Bristol.

Call for smaller units to improve efficiency



Sir Peter Massfield: "fetish" for mergers blamed.

By Our Technology Correspondent

Large organizations should operate in moderate-sized units to improve industrial relations and productivity, Sir Peter Massfield, former chairman of the British Airways Authority, said in London last night.

Giving his inaugural address as chairman of council of the Royal Society of Arts, Sir Peter said that an increase of only 5 per cent in output from the manufacturing labour force of 7.3 million people (about 30 per cent of the total employed labour force of 24.7 million) would improve Britain's annual export/import balance by about £5,500m a year—and transform our economic situation.

Assuming that the United Kingdom and the leading industrial nations within the European Community were level-pegging in terms of manufacturing output per employee in 1960 (and this assumption was probably favourable to the United Kingdom), figures showed that Britain had increased this specific output by about 58 per cent, while the five leading EEC countries had almost doubled theirs.

In other words, Britain had fallen behind in manufacturing output by about one third. This disparity was one reason for Britain's relatively high rates

of inflation compared with other members of the EEC.

"It is easy to say that insufficient investment, over-manning and restrictive practices are among the reasons for low output—and so they are. But I believe that the main cause is a dispirited attitude of mind born of lack of incentives and a general feeling of ineffectiveness—most of all in the giant organizations."

Many of the problems must be laid at the door of the "fetish" for mergers in recent years. The result had been a series of vast and ponderous organizations, many of them blighted by remoteness of control and a tendency to seek conformity with little scope for individual innovation or enterprise.

These frustrations and indifference replaced enthusiasm and dedication. There were some exceptions in large organizations, but not many.

The subject of human productivity, Sir Peter suggested, was the biggest challenge facing every branch of industry and business today. It was a world problem but was of special moment in Britain.

Though the bulk of large scale production (about 70 per cent of it) was channelled

through a relatively few very large organizations, the majority of employment is in small companies, many of which supplied the large concerns.

The small companies' record for labour relations was excellent, in the main because they were not subject to the same pressures as the very large organizations which they supply.

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Builders form a housing directorate

By John Huxley

A housing directorate has been established by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers in a move to broaden its approach to housing matters.

The directorate, which will coordinate the federation's work across the whole field of housing policy, is to be headed by Mr Ian Deslandes, director of the House-Builders Federation.

The decision to set up the

view of housing issues, have served to blur the traditional distinction between the private and public house-building sectors and made a more broadly-based approach by the NFBTE to housing matters essential.

The directorate will establish close liaison to be developed between the House-Builders Federation, dealing with the private sector, and the NFBTE's public sector housing and housing areas improvement committees in the public sector.

Sir Ronald McIntosh, director of the National Economic Development Office, said yesterday that he had made a misleading reference to fractional horsepower motors after his October 30 speech to the Development Council meeting.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Floating and the money supply

Foreign currency reserves rose by just \$3,000m in October and that, one assumes, is the end of the massive monthly losses we have now become used to—at least until the Government decides whether to float the pound or to consider a honey-moon or a new way of life.

Meanwhile, the extent of the increase in the October reserves figure adds a little credence to the kinds of pressures the authorities were under in coming to their decision to let the pound float. Just how much of the inflow—just over £1,700m in sterling terms—will have worked through to the money supply in the month to mid-October remains to be seen.

But the fact that the money supply growth has been kept to under 250m to remain within the upper limit of 13 per cent annual growth certainly adds credence to the rumours that the October money supply figures will show a substantial "overshoot". On the assumption that this is indeed the case, it could well be that the potential growth allowable in sterling M3 in the

GILTS

Remaining gilt-edged redemptions: 1977-78	
15 Treasury 3% 1977	£850m
20 Brit Transport 4% 1972-77	£242m
15 Treasury 8% 1978	£1,500m

second half of the financial year, if money supply is to finish the 12-month course target, may be no more than £2,000m-300m.

From this it follows that if rather more than half of this year's public sector borrowing requirement falls into the second six months of the year, and if bank lending to the private sector continues at around £300m a month, then the authorities will still have to sell at least £3,000m net of public-sector borrowing over the remaining six months of the year—as well as refinancing whatever may remain outstanding of the £2,592m nominal gilts due for redemption.

The authorities are already part of the downward road with calls and sales of £650m since the October make-up.

In addition, there is a further call of £2m due in late November, plus the £291m still outstanding on BP. But though the situation may already be feeling bloated, the Government is clearly relying on their "ring room" for a few more courses yet.

Gold nother ghts

Isolated Gold Fields' shares have fallen or 25 per cent in two weeks, a reflection of the South African situation and a hostile reception to the group's rights issue in 21 years.

The £40m two-for-one issue at 155p netted a 20p drop to 177p in the share price and pessimists predict further weakness in the price unless the gold price comes to rescue.

There are rather vague reasons for the issue not helping sentiment, particularly as the price sheet is not stretched—gross borrowings are £176m against shareholders' funds of £40m.

shake-out in Eurobonds

Eurobond market is still in the middle of a worst shake-out for perhaps two years. The second half of last month some of the price losses seen during the first two months were recovered, but in the past few all those gains have been lost again.

Problems, of course, are the weakness of the dollar and the continuing upward in American interest rates, compounded by what Europeans see as the truly mind-boggling public squabble between the White House and the Federal Reserve Board.

It is the impact on the Eurobond market been by no means as bad as it might have been. There has been some significant recovery against the background of an almost dearth of buying interest, but nothing to suggest that the market has been feared.

Even the unfavourable fundamentals the market is, indeed, holding up better than it has been expected, reinforcing the view that the bond market is now more broadly based, both in terms of dealing capacity and in institutional interest, than was the case three years ago.

The market may not yet be through the storm, however. The key indicator

of funds of above £400m. Clearly though the group's expansionist policy in the United Kingdom and the United States, will demand cash.

Nevertheless South Africa and gold, are still important to the group; last year gold contributed 26 per cent of group revenue.

In its bid to expand away from these two traditional sources, Cons Gold has found itself facing the dilemma of other international mining houses—depressed base metal prices, political uncertainty in developed countries as well as LDC's savage cost increases in new mining ventures and continual ending currency fluctuations.

Hence the move into the United Kingdom, where ARC has been an outstanding success, and into the United States, where, the recent Hydro Conduit acquisition makes Cons Gold the biggest concrete pipe manufacturer in a fragmented market.

With this issue, Cons Gold is only forecasting a 10 per cent dividend increase, which also upsets the market. That means a 7.9 per cent prospective yield on the ex-rights price of 173p, while the prospective p/e ratio is less than 6.



Mr. J. Hambro, whose chairman is Mr. J. Hambro & Co., is through the fire which resulted from its unimpaired European developments in 1972-73, but it has been fairly badly shaken in the process. Disasters totalling £32.7m in the first six months, largely in France, but also of properties in Holland, the United States and Canada, will have reduced the loans of £93m in the December balance sheet by a similar amount, cutting exposure to currencies and bringing gearing down from three times to roughly twice shareholders' funds.

Net asset value will have been left nearly intact as most of the extraordinary loss on the sales, amounting to £4.2m, representing the difference between historical cost and sales prices, was allowed for as a provision in the 1976 accounts, but there must be disappointment that a further £1.19m has had to be taken from reserves as a result of the costs of disposals and penalties on the early cancellation of loans.

With luck, that should be the end of the extraordinary losses, and although revenue will not show any great benefits this year, there should be some improvement in the profit, which was only £362,000 in the half (£558,000) will leap as the interest charge of £4.3m comes down with the borrowings; and although the interim dividend is only maintained at last year's reduced 1.66p, the final could well be restored to earlier levels—the peak payment was equal to 4.95p gross in 1975.

is the steepness of the yield curve, since the capacity of dealers and professionals to hold bonds on their books at a profit depends on a worthwhile margin existing between short term financing costs and the return on the portfolio. Earlier this year that margin was about three full points, but it has been declining ever since and is now perilously close to disappearing.

Six month Eurodollars, for instance, are now at 7 1/2 per cent while prime five year bonds are yielding barely 8 per cent.

If interest rates in the United States continue to rise and if, as lately Eurodollar rates rise even faster, it is possible that the margin between short and long rates could be eliminated completely, his would be the point where dealers would come under particular pressure, especially since some of the more recent comers into the secondary market may already be nursing capital losses on their portfolios.

The unresolved question is just how big the professionals' bond books now are, and whether efforts by them to cut back might be accompanied by selling from some longer term investors in favour, perhaps, of the British gilt-edged market.

Will miners' pay put a damper on coal?

Any battle between the National Coal Board, the Government and the miners over pay this winter will certainly be fought in the power stations. The big question for the miners and the NCB is how much of this vital market for coal will be swept away by an industrial dispute—or a peaceful settlement that brings a large increase in coal prices.

Coal at present dominates the power station scene purely on its price. The Central Electricity Generating Board can buy coal 10 to 15 per cent cheaper than oil, with the result that the oil's share of the power station market has halved in three years, while coal use has risen to a record 77 million tons a year.

But it is a position that is gradually being balanced and the generating board has the ability to make drastic reductions in the use of coal at almost a moment's notice. Through the buying of oil, the electricity generated by the 28 oil-burning power stations throughout the country is idle or under used, waiting for the day when oil prices will become competitive with coal.

The claim for £135 a week for coal face workers, if conceded, would immediately make most of the oil plant competitive with coal again. The electricity generating board pays for each ton of coal produced by coal would immediately rise to nearly 12p a therm, while the delivered price of the 13p-cost of gas would rise to 14p.

These figures (and also those in the chart) do not include the cost of fuel transport to the power stations, which is high in the case of coal delivered by rail or road.

Coal does not have to match the price of oil before it completely loses its competitive edge. Experts reckon that the ease of handling compared with oil gives coal a natural 1p a therm advantage. For new power stations to be economic it needs a 3p a therm advantage, rising to 4p if there are small and medium sized industries are to make the change.

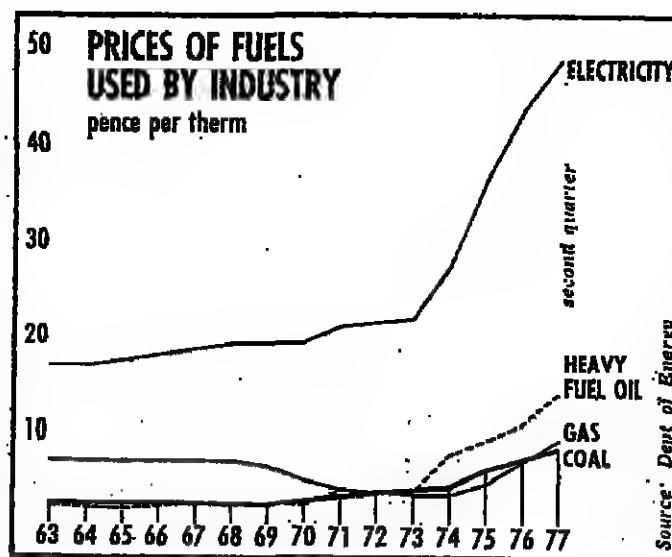
The net result of an increase in coal prices of this size would be the loss of up to 10 million tons of the NCB's coal to the power market, a renaissance in the oil companies' sales to the CEGB and a minimum increase in electricity prices to the consumer of 15 per cent. Of the 10 million tons, only six million tons would be lost to oil. The remaining four million would be accounted for by lower electricity sales as a consumer reaction to higher prices.

Settlement based on a 60 per cent wage increase would reduce the coal "burn" by five million tons (two million from lost sales and three million to oil), while it would decline by 1.5 million tons (500,000 tons from lost sales and a million tons to oil) from a 30 per cent increase. It is perhaps significant that economists in the fuel industries have used a 30 per cent increase and above in their calculations of the effects of a pay rise.

Previous large increases in coal prices have been cushioned by even larger rises in oil prices. But oil prices are no longer soaring at the historic rates of 1974 and 1975. There is a glut of oil throughout the world, which looks like producing only a very small increase in prices next year.

The decision will be taken by ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) when they meet in Venezuela just before Christmas. All the indications are that they will seek for an increase of between 5 and 10 per cent and a further extension of the 1977 prices into next year cannot be ruled out.

During the past year oil's competitiveness with coal has slipped, and although world oil prices have been fairly stable, the decline in the value of sterling has added to import costs and industrial oils have had to contend with increases in tax.



The average cost of coal delivered to the power stations in 1976 was 8p a therm, against oil's 10.6p. In the first six months of this year the gulf widened, with the delivered cost of coal reaching 9.2p a therm, while sterling's difficulties and extra tax have pushed up oil costs to 13p a therm.

However, after suffering from sterling's problems, oil prices can expect to reap some benefit from the pound's recovery. The CEGB is also getting some marginal relief from the world oil glut, which

Price competitiveness compared with oil and three years of peace in the pits have led to renewed interest in coal as a long-term energy source. The fuel also still dominates the power generation market. How much of this could be at risk?

Roger Vielvoye reports.

has produced distress cargoes of very cheap fuel oil on European markets.

During the work-to-rule by power station men all fuel price considerations are merely hypothetical since the CEGB has abandoned its merit order system and is using a price of serviceable generating equipment, including oil-burning units. The CEGB's merit system ensures that those stations capable of producing the cheapest electricity are used to produce the bulk of the country's power needs.

It has certainly not escaped the notice of the miners that while power stations have been burning record amounts of coal, electricity prices have been low. The CEGB's needs even with low productivity. Increasing output per man would reduce the board's unit costs of production, but unless it recovers the overall price of coal much of the additional production would go directly into stock.

The NCB has high hopes of increasing its sales to power stations, but this would require the generating board to bring into operation old power stations that are uneconomic at present coal prices. For new and efficient coal-burning stations the CEGB will have to wait until the second stage of the Drax station in Yorkshire is in the early 1980s.

By this time the NCB should also be reaping the results, and

extra production, of investment in existing low-cost mines and in new pits, as outlined in the Plan for Coal.

Under the original Plan for Coal it was expected that new mines would produce 20 million tons a year by 1985. The NCB has revised this target to 10m tons, partly because of the difficulties of getting planning permission for new workings.

Nevertheless, it is still confident that it can meet its target of increasing national output to 135m tons a year by the mid-1980s. The lost 10m capacity from new mines would be compensated for by slower exhaustion of the existing pits and not the new capacity that will set the marginal cost for the industry in the 1980s.

All the surveys forecast for the United Kingdom place great importance on a healthy coal industry. Once oil prices are affected by any shortages in supply during the 1980s it is expected that many industries will start to move back to coal in their day-to-day operations.

Only 25 years ago large heaps of coal outside grimy boiler-houses were a feature of the industrial landscape. Most factories depended on coal to power their operations much as they had done since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

In the 1950s cheap oil from the Middle East flooded on to the market and the much chronic decline of the British coal industry began. Output dropped from 220 million tons a year in 1952 to 120 million tons in 1976, as companies made a rapid conversion to a fuel that was cheaper, cleaner and easier to handle.

Only the captive power stations and steel markets kept coal from virtual extinction. Two disastrous strikes in 1972 and 1974 ensured that oil kept its customers, even though the six-fold increase in oil prices since 1973-1974 meant that conversion to coal could have provided cheaper energy costs in many cases.

Three years of peace in the pits has slowly helped to rebuild the business community's confidence in coal. Many energy managers have been carefully exploring the possibilities of converting from oil to coal as part of a longer term energy strategy.

Few had actually made a decision, but according to one of the Government's fuel advisers there was a willingness to consider coal that had been absent several years before. However, this was a willingness to consider coal that had been absent several years before.

Coal's credibility as a reliable fuel is once again in question. The rejection of the productivity deal and its likely consequences is going to force companies to think very hard about moving away from oil before it is absolutely necessary.

Economic notebook

Hobson's choice for Mr Healey

Just how big an impact will the upward "float" of the pound have on our trade with the rest of the world—and should we worry about it?

To answer that question, and to clear our minds of the contradictory impressions which come from the statements which the Chancellor makes from time to time about price and non-price competitiveness, it is worth looking at just what has been happening to our exports over the past year, under the impulse of the very sharp devaluation of 1976.

North Sea Oil has, of course, been the most important element in our remarkable improvement over the past year, but it is not the only one. There has also been a dramatic recovery in our exports of other goods, including manufactures which have performed so badly for so long.

In the second quarter of 1977 the volume of exports rose by 4 per cent over the first quarter level and in the third quarter it rose by a further 2 1/2 per cent.

This is the evidence from the real world to confirm what theory tells us—that, although all the "non-price" elements in competitiveness, such as delivery dates, quality and so on do matter, price matters as well and it matters very much.

The extent to which overseas sales are affected by price changes depends on a large extent, of course, on the particular commodity being studied; but most estimates come out with an average elasticity for exports of about 1 1/2, with the impact on semi-finished manufactures being much greater than on finished manufactures.

This is clearly understandable, since semi-manufactures will tend to be those products bought in bulk with a fairly uniform specification. It is in the fitting together of the pieces that qualities such as design become more important.

Changes in relative prices are thus crucially important in determining the way in which export volumes move. The only question at issue, then, is the extent to which changes in the price of the pound, or any other currency, are reflected in changes of relative prices.

In other words, does a change in the value of sterling become absorbed through changes in the price quoted by British exporters, or is it reflected entirely in a change of the volume sold?

Higher profits margins

The answer, in the short term at least, is a little bit of both, with a clear tendency after three years for the whole effect of the parity change to be reflected in a change in the sterling price quoted by British exporters.

This is understandable. If the pound is devalued, exporters will tend to raise their prices to the prevailing world level, because by doing so they can get higher profit margins, something which is more difficult to do at home because of price control; and, if they are selling overseas and there is a revaluation, they will either cut back on their profit margins by absorbing the costs of the higher pound or they will be driven out of overseas markets.

Thus we would expect to see an immediate downturn in the volume of exports (the Confederation of British Industry

has revised its prediction of export growth down from 6 per cent to 5 per cent for the period from the second half of 1977 to the second half of 1978, which seems a reasonable revision, though its estimate of 8 per cent for world trade growth might be optimistic, leading into a protracted but slower decline as companies give up because it is no longer profitable).

In the short run the decrease in volume will have the more significant impact on demand, coupled with the slightly higher import penetration which will result; but over a longer period the fall in profits is likely to be more important through its effect on industrial investment. It may just be coincidence that there was no action under the negotiations for Ford to build a new plant in Wales had been completed, but the rise in sterling is bound to have an effect on the many other businesses thinking of doing something similar.

Exchange controls

So, if we accept that relaxing exchange controls on movements of money out of the country was the alternative to allowing sterling to rise (it was not necessarily the only one), the logic of the Chancellor's actions is hard to follow. He has prevented money flowing out to finance investment overseas at the price of making investment here less attractive for both British and overseas companies.

The contractionary effect on demand will no doubt be mitigated by the fact that inflation will be lower and this, if it does not cause an equal reduction in nominal wages, lead to higher disposable incomes for consumers. However, even on the optimistic assessments of the extent to which lower import prices feed through into the general price level, the effect over the next 12 months is obviously bound to be far less than the "one for one" under which a 1 per cent revaluation would reduce retail prices by 1 per cent.

Even if we assume a far more generous effect than the Treasury has ever considered, it is hard to see how the reduction in prices could be much more than a third of the size of the revaluation, which would mean that if sterling appreciates 5 per cent from the average level during the summer we would expect inflation to be about 1 to 2 per cent lower than it otherwise would have been.

This is obviously a worthwhile reduction, but the net effect, as the International Monetary Fund pointed out at the meeting in October, cannot be anything other than a contraction in domestic demand.

Where does all this leave the policy of the Government, which says that reducing unemployment is its top priority? Of the components of demand, exports have been dealt a blow and investment has been made less attractive by this week's action.

That leaves only one course left. The Government has often said that it rejects the idea of a consumption-led boom as a way of using North Sea oil. In practice, it is faced now with the choice between having a consumption-led recovery or no recovery at all.

David Blake

Business Diary: Thompson's listening post • Chop logic

ish industry and Mid-companies in particular have a sturdy ally on the staff of Peter Jay, our senior in America. Thompson, 54, the present West's regional director of department of industry, is early in the new year science and technology counsellor in Washington.

physicist by training, pson has spent the past six years as the top first in the East Midlands recently in the West.

might he told me: "The as originally created some ago to feed scientific in-tion from the American-ities and fundamental ch invitations to our own nic bodies. More recently ref has been expanded e it an industrial bias. I o concentrate even more industrial side."

like GKN, Rolls-Royce, us to make good use "and add: "I am going in touch with the major cm corporations such as General Motors, and ighouse. You could say shall be selling Great Limited and British in-ning post for British in- at the same time."

is more. Thompson is ing drafted to Washing- st, former mining eng- Vism Smith, was leaving to the OECD in Paris and We the job.

"In that way, I shall be going somewhere I want to go and not—as happens so often in the way of government changes—somewhere I didn't want to go", he said.

Mark Weinberg, the managing director of the Hambro Life Insurance company, yesterday handed over a cheque for £3,000 to sponsor a sport that you would think insurance companies would steer well clear of—karate.

The cheque was accepted by Arthur Rees, honorary president of karate's coordinating body, the Martial Arts Commission. Together with a Sports Council grant, it will fund a visit to Tokyo by the British karate team next month.

If karate seems a rather risky activity as far as injuries go, it is a very good risk in terms of competitions won. Britain is no longer up to winning world cups in her own national sport—soccer—but happens to be present world karate champion and the only country to beat the Japanese twice.

Our team will be defending this title against them on the forthcoming trip.

Rees, former chief constable of Staffordshire, is chairman of the Queen's Jubilee Appeal (Sport) and his commission licenses—and insures—practitioners of karate. We trust that claims are settled amicably.

As if it isn't hard enough to fly anywhere these days there could now be troubles at



"That's the fifth successive paragraph you've begun with 'Unfortunately', sir."

an important business destination—Abu Dhabi.

Department of Trade officials were busy last night trying to warn as many business travellers as possible against travelling in Abu Dhabi without having first booked a hotel, or without checking a reservation already made.

The Abu Dhabi government has reserved most if not all the hotel space of international standard between Saturday and Christmas night. This period takes in three important local events, a UNESCO conference, the national day and the Moslem new year, D of T officials explained.

"Meat is no longer a food, but one of the commodities which the powers that be in Brussels play with and use to retain the farmers' vote in Europe, to subsidize exports of bacon to this country from Europe, making pig-keeping here unprofitable, and to prohibit the import of quality beef from the Argen-

vene the professional code. Or at least when publishers Lund Humphries brought out books on Gothic, Modern, and York, Rosenberg Marshall the RIBA made no complaint.

The latest title to result from this sort of arrangement is *Adventure in Architecture: A Profile of the Owen Luder Partnership*—an attractive and informative little book about one of Britain's more dynamic and, yes, genuinely adventurous firms of architects.

The author, Kate Wharton (a former editor of *The Architect*) manages to look rather deeper into her subject than just the buildings. She probes what makes an architect's office tick; tales of commissions that come in the nick of time to save the practice, midnight oil liberally burned, and "the vital telephone call that recharged the adrenalin."

Commissioned titles may lack the waspishness of the architectural journals, but they may make for wider public discussion. Luder (quoted by Wharton) asserts: "It is healthier to have building and architecture criticized and subjected to argument rather than ignored."

At last, some figures on the cost of VAT. Professor Cedric Sandford, director of Bath University's Centre of Fiscal Studies, has received a £12,200 grant from the Social Science Research Council to question more than 300 businessmen in the South-west about the time and money it costs to comply with VAT regulations.

Bryant Holdings

HOMES : PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT : BUILDING : CIVIL ENGINEERING

- ★ Profit before taxation £2.68m. compared with £2.39m. last year.
- ★ Gross final dividend 2.1p per share (1.9p last year) — maximum permissible.
- ★ Main trading activities all profitable. Cash position very satisfactory.
- ★ Market value of large land bank well in excess of balance sheet figure.
- ★ Reserves increased by development surplus of £1.2m. additional to trading profit.
- ★ Satisfactory results anticipated for current year.

PRINCIPAL RESULTS

Year ended May 31	1977	1976
	£	£
TURNOVER	65,000,000	60,000,000
Profit before taxation	2,681,516	2,390,314
Taxation	1,813,827	1,439,182
Profit after taxation	1,047,689	961,122
Ordinary Dividend	452,002	404,880
Earnings per share	4.8p	4.8p

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Cranmore House, Cranmore Boulevard, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B39 4SD.

COMMODITIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Rule to limit positions approved by CFTC

Washington, Nov. 2.—The Commodity Futures Trading Commission has approved in principle a "speculatively limit" rule which would limit the size of positions in futures contracts.

The rule will be published in the Federal Register and comments will be received for 90 days.

Under the rule, contract markets would have to determine if any person holding over 25 per cent of the open interest in a futures contract is a "speculative trader" and not a bona fide hedger.

The commission noted the proposed rule is not a speculative limit rule, as it makes a distinction between hedgers and speculators and considers hedger exemptions.

It said the rule would automatically require exchanges to make an "affirmative determination" that their market is not endangered by particular positions when concentration of positions reaches a certain level.

The commission said in determining whether anyone is a speculative trader, it would consider whether a person is a bona fide hedger or a speculative trader.

Under the rule, a person would be considered a speculative trader if he or she holds more than 25 per cent of the open interest in a futures contract and is not a bona fide hedger.

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Foreign Exchange

Starting as measured by the effective exchange index, held steady throughout the session yesterday at 64.4, although, in terms of the dollar, lost one cent at 51.435 compared with 51.435.

Overnight Dealers reported a fairly busy trade with some light Continental and trans-Atlantic trading forcing the pound lower.

A technical rally by the dollar, and a renewed concern over miners' wage claims, also contributed to the lower position of the pound at the close.

The dollar gained a technical rally against most major currencies. Deutschemarks for instance weakened at 2.2490 (2.2395) along with the Swiss franc at 2.2215 (2.2150).

Gold just 50.75 to close in London at \$161.375.

The commission also approved a staff recommendation to request comments on recommendations regarding speculative limits which are now in existence.

In contracts where speculative limits exist, these would be set on a "safety net" guideline. This would allow the market to function competitively but limit positions which are extraordinarily in character and represent potentially abusive market power, the commission said.

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Discount market

Credit was more than adequate on Lombard Street yesterday. The Bank of England finally sold a large amount of Treasury bills to both the banks and the houses.

Interbank rates opened at 4 1/4 per cent, but houses took the bank of the money down within a band of 3 1/4 per cent during the morning. Conditions then became patchy with some houses over and some still looking for funds.

The one identified factor working against the market was a fairly large take-up of Treasury bills. Against this, balances were some way up overnight, there was very substantial excess of Government disbursements over Revenue transfers to the Exchequer, and note circulation declined.

In addition, dealers said they were seeing quite a bit of money off the foreign exchanges as a result of the Bank of England's dollar purchases on Monday.

Money Market

Bank of England Treasury Note 10%
Overnight: 4 1/4%
3 months: 4 1/4%
6 months: 4 1/4%
12 months: 4 1/4%

Forward Levels
New York: 20.00/20.00
London: 20.00/20.00
Paris: 20.00/20.00
Frankfurt: 20.00/20.00
Geneva: 20.00/20.00
Zurich: 20.00/20.00
Basel: 20.00/20.00
Bern: 20.00/20.00
Brussels: 20.00/20.00
Luxembourg: 20.00/20.00
Aachen: 20.00/20.00
Düsseldorf: 20.00/20.00
Cologne: 20.00/20.00
Munich: 20.00/20.00
Stuttgart: 20.00/20.00
Hamburg: 20.00/20.00
Berlin: 20.00/20.00
Dresden: 20.00/20.00
Leipzig: 20.00/20.00
Potsdam: 20.00/20.00
Regensburg: 20.00/20.00
Salzburg: 20.00/20.00
Vienna: 20.00/20.00
Zagreb: 20.00/20.00
Belgrade: 20.00/20.00
Sofia: 20.00/20.00
Athens: 20.00/20.00
Istanbul: 20.00/20.00
Tehran: 20.00/20.00
Karachi: 20.00/20.00
Bombay: 20.00/20.00
Calcutta: 20.00/20.00
Rangoon: 20.00/20.00
Singapore: 20.00/20.00
Hong Kong: 20.00/20.00
Manila: 20.00/20.00
Cebu: 20.00/20.00
Batavia: 20.00/20.00
Sourabaya: 20.00/20.00
Jakarta: 20.00/20.00
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Stock Exchange Prices

More ground lost

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 31. Dealings End, Nov 11. \$ Contango Day, Nov 14. Settlement Day, Nov 22.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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BRITISH FUNDS				COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES			
1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change	1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change	1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change	1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change	1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change	1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change	1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change	1976-77	1977-78	Price	Change
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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

BRITISH MANUFACTURE
AND RESEARCH COMPANY LIMITED
A member of the Oerlikon-Bührle Group
of Zurich, Switzerland, wish to appoint a

SECRETARY

This is an extremely interesting appointment for a competent Secretary who would be responsible to the Managing Director based at Grantham. This position would be best suited to someone who has had previous secretarial experience at Senior level, and applicants should, therefore, have good shorthand and typing speeds but presentation and accuracy is more important. A Secretarial qualification is essential together with fluency and a good working knowledge of the German language. An excellent salary will be offered together with a full range of fringe benefits that include pension and life assurance scheme, 29 days holiday, sports and social facilities.

Applicants, male or female, should write in strict confidence for an application form to:

Mr. S. Murphy, Recruitment Officer,
British Manufacture & Research Co. Ltd.,
Springfield Road, Grantham, Lincs.



PROOF READER

We are a large international firm of chartered accountants with pleasant modern offices close to St Paul's. We have a vacancy in our Calling Over Department for a person with the ability and aptitude to work as part of a small team involved with proof-reading documents and reports to be sent to clients. The position demands a high degree of patience, accuracy and consistency and no specialized knowledge, other than a good command of the English language, is required. We offer a good starting salary and other benefits which you would expect from a large professional firm. If you are aged between 25 and 45 and would like further details of this position, please contact Mrs Jean Oliver,

COOPERS & LYBRAND

Abacus House, Gutter Lane, Cheapside, London
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Telephone: 01-405 4040, extension 2814



Secretary to Chief Architect

£3,100-£3,700

A mature Secretary with loads of commonsense and the ability to get on with everyone at all levels is needed to work in our modern offices in Holborn. Apart from providing the usual personal and confidential secretarial services, the successful applicant (male or female) will be required to liaise with various Building Contractors and Designers to arrange meetings at Director and Senior Management level. Ideally we are looking for someone with at least seven years' secretarial experience who wants to make the best use of their organising ability and initiative. A sense of humour would be a helpful asset. Excellent conditions of service including regular salary reviews, staff restaurant, 4 weeks holiday, 25 per cent discount, sick pay and pension schemes.

Please apply to: Mrs. O. Heaver, Head of Strand House Staff Services, W. H. Smith & Son, Strand House, 10 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1AD. Telephone 353 0277, extension 3208.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

£4,000+

Institutional partners of a small expanding firm of stockbrokers are looking for a competent secretary to coordinate business in the U.K. and Europe. Applicants would need to be experienced in —
—Typing Research Work
—Operating Telex
—Organising Mailings
—Commercial French and German
General competence in all modern offices in the City. L.V. 4 weeks' plus holiday per year, plus usual benefits. Please telephone 01-606 1731

Opportunity for a

DYNAMIC AND QUALIFIED SECRETARY

TO WORK FOR A STEEL COMPANY WITH MODERN OFFICES IN MAYFAIR

Accurate typing and shorthand and interest in figure work. Knowledge of languages, preferably Greek, would be an advantage. Please address your applications with full particulars and salary required, to: Box 2776 J, The Times

SECRETARY/PA

AROUND £3,600

Non-Order Director of large international group requires top level Secretary. The position is a very important one, involving a high degree of accuracy and initiative. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of reports and the coordination of the work of the other staff. The position offers a very attractive salary and benefits package. Please apply to: Box 2776 J, The Times

ADMINISTRATOR YOUTH TRAVEL

£3,750 p.a.

22+

For dynamic, Managing Director of a young West End Adventure Agency, specialising in travel to all parts of the world, a person with a good knowledge of the travel industry and a high degree of initiative and accuracy is required. The position offers a very attractive salary and benefits package. Please apply to: Box 2776 J, The Times

Telephone Ken Hervey on 01-408 1818

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A logical solution for 2 PA's

Salary - up to £4000 p.a.

BOC Engineering Division has a reputation for recruiting young people with high potential. We expect them to be more than just a specialist mind working in isolation. That's why we offer them a broad, liberal-minded arena in which to exercise their talents.

We're looking for two special PA's, one to work for our Commercial Director, the other for our Planning Manager. Apart from some secretarial work, these positions involve obtaining, summarising and presenting business information from both within and outside the company. The people appointed will have to use their initiative and resourcefulness, and be able to communicate with senior managers.

The people we appoint will have a minimum of two 'A' levels, competent shorthand and typing, and at least three years' commercial experience.

Based in Hammersmith these positions offer salaries up to £4000 per annum, with a valuable and attractive range of benefits.

So if you are aged 23 plus with a mature and responsible attitude to your work and career - this could be your next logical step.

Please write or phone for an application form to Michael Wellin, Personnel Planning Manager, BOC Limited, Hammersmith House, London W6 8DX. Tel. 01-748 2020.



Engineering Division

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY/P.A.

We are looking for an experienced confidential secretary in the age range 25-35 to fill this very important position. The successful applicant will have above average shorthand and typing abilities, and must be willing to be trained in the use of the latest automatic typewriter.

A good administration background is essential, with experience of working at a senior level. The ability to deal with people at all levels is of prime importance. A clock-watcher is not required.

Excellent working conditions in a very well appointed modern office in the centre of Windsor. Salary is commensurate with age and experience, but will be above average. 4 weeks' holiday per year with L.Vs provided.

Please write in the first instance to:

Box 2635 J, The Times

SECRETARY TO M.D.

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Motoring

Sprinting along in style with Alfa Romeo

Alfa Romeo broke new ground when it conceived the Alfaford, both literally and hypothetically. The Milan-based company, which is state-controlled, decided to build the car not in the traditional manufacturing region in the north of Italy but in a new purpose-built factory in the high unemployment environs of Naples—hence the name Alfaford.

The company also decided that the time had come to broaden its marketing horizons, so the new car was to be one for the masses with a simplicity of form to enable it to be sold as competitively as possible.

There have been probably many occasions since the first Alfaford was conceived off the Neapolitan production line five years ago when the company's management has queried its own wisdom in going south, for the story of the factory has been an unhappy one, punctuated with tales of industrial disturbance, poor quality control and consistent shortfall in output.

At last, the corner seems to have been turned, to the delight of those Alfa owners who have enthused over their cars' road performance but may have been disappointed, especially if they had one of the earlier examples, with their quality and durability.

The improvement in cars imported into Britain has been most marked, particularly as the Alfa Romeo company decided to specify only the up-market variants of what has become an increasingly wide Alfaford range. This decision was made after the dealers sent a clear message that the British market is no longer interested in minimum-cost vehicles, but will pay for refinement and full equipment.

The imported Alfaford range, therefore, is confined to four models—a four-door saloon with a 1186cc flat-four engine and a 1200 cc V6 engine, a two-door coupé called the 1200 cc and costing almost £2,900; a similar coupé but with a 1286 cc engine, designated the 1300 cc and retailing at exactly £3,000; and a four-door model, which has just arrived in Britain and is the car illustrated here.

This is the Alfaford Sprint, by far the most refined variant seen to date, and enhanced by an interior which carries the unmistakable stamp of that great stylist Giorgetto Giugiaro. At a price of £4,000 it is in no sense a cheap car, but after a recent test I am convinced that neither is it unduly expensive.

For a car that performs more like a sports car than a 1300 cc, a lively 76 bhp (DIN) at 5,000 rpm, combined with good aerodynamics (a bill-type front spoiler and a lip on the tail are integral with the body), give the car a top speed of 104 mph, and an acceleration time to 60 mph of just over 11 seconds. Furthermore, the five-speed transmission has well-stepped ratios to give 26.45, 45.66 and 84.41 mph in the four lower gears, if the 6,000 rpm rev limit is used, so that even with a full load the driver should be wanting for a gear when overtaking.

The short, stubby lever has the lower ratio, with fifth to the right and up, opposite reverse. On the left, I found it was disconcerting to find no positive stop coming out to fifth to protect reverse.

Better quality and durability—Alfa Romeo Sprint

but this proved to be an isolated fault, and a second test drive revealed no such problem. There is a light spring loading towards the third-fourth gear change.

Of all front-drive cars, surely the Alfaford has the most nearly neutral handling of all—just a trace of understeer when accelerated hard through a roundabout to cause a subtle tightening of lock as you back off.

There is an unusual degree of feel from the front wheels through the well-geared steering and the car can be placed with great accuracy through a series of bends while the level of shock absorption provides a degree of ride comfort which I believe sets the standard for cars of this size and weight.

Generously long seat cushions and backrests, with fabric-covered recessed centre sections, offer excellent support, and I am pleased to see the Giugiaro and his team do not believe that every car has to be a sports car. The Alfa Romeo has a truly versatile driving position. Careful angling of the rear seat makes the most of the available room, while behind a neat V6-type fastening, secured a cover over a deep luggage trunk, which is reached over a high sill.

Comprehensive instrumentation, good ventilation and more than usual attention to minor details of trim are encouraging evidence that the Alfaford has been given the quality packaging which I have always felt its road performance justified.

Golf GTI: above par

Back in the mid-sixties a well-known French motoring journalist used to rush around Europe in a Mini Cooper S with a permanent smile on his face uttering beautiful things about BMC. Some months ago the smile returned, and the reason was his newly acquired Volkswagen Golf GTI. "I've not felt the same about a car since I had that Mini," he said. "I now understand what he means."

The GTI, which so far has been available here only in left-hand-drive form, is the sort of "model British Leyland might have been expected to be turning out today had it not suffered the traumas of the past few years.

It has a dual personality, that of an eager yet very docile and tractable computer car when used modestly, but with an all-alloy, chunky GT car whenever advantage is taken of the extensively modified 110 bhp engine and of the suspension and braking improvements which have been incorporated with it.

Different springs, shock absorbers and anti-roll bars, ventilated front brake discs, wider wheels and tyres beneath flared wheel arches, a front

spoiler, rear screen wash/wipe, Halo-gate headlamps, special rally-type front seats and competition steering wheel, these are the main changes from the regular 1,588 cc-engined two-door Golf hatchback, apart from the engine with its Bosch K-Jetronic fuel injection.

On a test drive I saw a top speed well over 110 mph, and 90 mph available in third, while acceleration to 60 mph took only shade over three seconds, and over more than 400 miles of mainly hard driving I returned a fuel consumption of better than 27 mpg.

The outstanding feature of the engine in its rev range: it will pull cleanly from as low as 1,000 rpm in top right up to a 7,000 rpm rev limit. Apart from a vibration at a fast idling speed the engine is uncannily smooth, although relatively noisy in the higher rev range, but quite a long, light travel with considerable bite towards the end of it; and the steering is very accurate. A firmly sprung car, it provides quite a choppy ride at low speeds but smooths out impressively on the open road to give a precision of handling in the best traditions of a competition-oriented car. A good driving position is aided by firmly padded but tall and well-shouldered seats, although the driver's inertia-reel seat belt was a rather tight fit.

There is sufficient power on tap to spin the front wheels readily and to explore the limits of the GTI's handling performance, especially in the wet, when a skilled driver will revel in the way in which power-on understeer can be lifted-off-provoked tail slide can be balanced so accurately, the accelerator and steering wheel. A great 54,000 worth of fun for the sportsman, but novices should opt for one of the lesser-powered Golfs and save nearly £1,000.

A right royal run
On Sunday Prince Michael of Kent, at the wheel of a 1903 Daimler, will become the first member of the Royal Family to take part in the RAC London Rally, which is being organised by the Prince's own company, the Prince of Kent's Motor Club. The Prince will be driving a 1903 Daimler, which was built in 1903 and is now 74 years old. The Prince will be driving the car from London to the Cotswolds, where he will be staying at the Cotswold Manor Hotel. The Prince will be driving the car for a week, and will be accompanied by a small entourage. The Prince will be driving the car for a week, and will be accompanied by a small entourage.

John Blunsden



Porsche

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1977 924, ice green metallic, all extras.

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1976 27 911 Coupe, yellow.

1974 27 911 Coupe, copper brown metallic.

1974 27 911 S Targa, metallic silver.

1973 24 911 S Coupe, primrose yellow.

1973 24 911 T Coupe, Roman purple.

1973 24 911 T Coupe, black, all extras.

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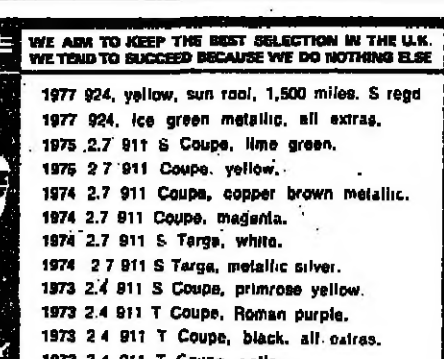
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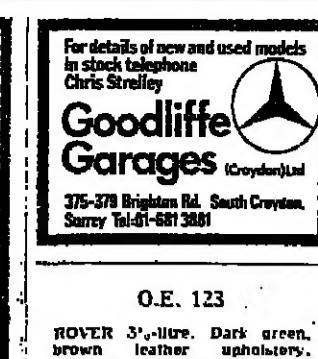
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